

Inside

IT'S TIME FOR THE ROAD WARRIORS
TO FIRE PRECIOUS PAUL ELLERING!

VICTORY
SPORTS
SERIES

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Wrestling

Rick Steamboat vs. Magnificent Muraco:

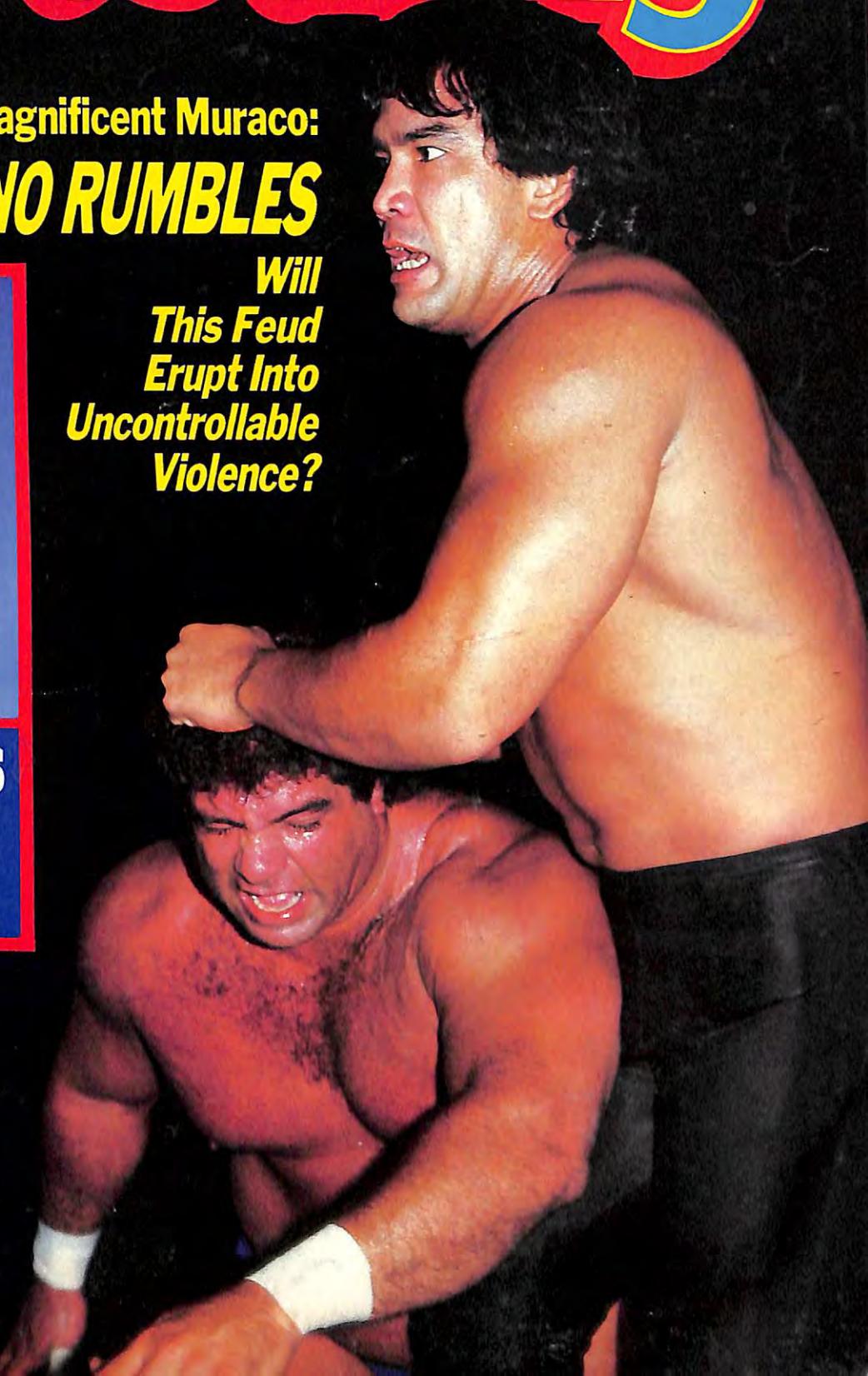
THE VOLCANO RUMBLES

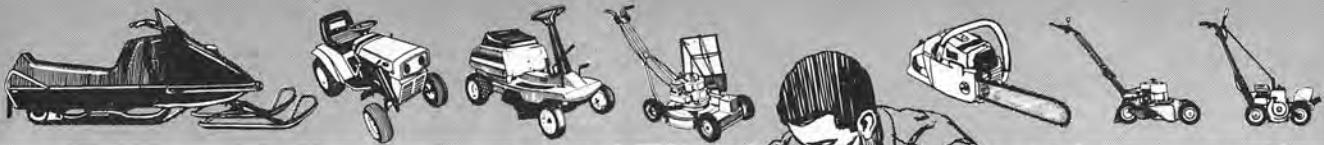
Will
*This Feud
Erupt Into
Uncontrollable
Violence?*



MIKE VON ERICH'S
COURAGEOUS
FIGHT FOR LIFE

JAKE ROBERTS:
"I'M JUST LIKE
MY DDT—CRUEL
BUT FAIR!"





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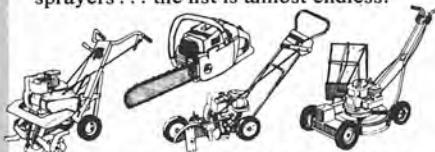
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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David Fitzgerald
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Buddy Myers

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MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

*If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.*

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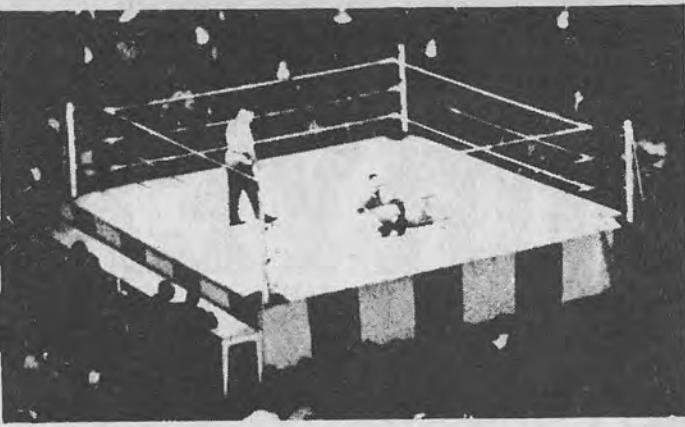
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UNMASK HUMONGOUS

I am an avid wrestling fan and have been since I was old enough to watch television. I have seen many matches, bloody and frightening, and side with those wrestlers who at least attempt to follow the rules.

I sat in horror last month as I tuned into the Mid-South wrestling TV matches and watched a creature called Humongous wrestle "Captain Redneck" Dick Murdoch. This Humongous had a hard plastic mask



Humongous' hard face mask gives him an unfair advantage, writes Angela R. Drain. Above, Humongous squeezes the blood from Wendell Cooley's open wounds.

covering his entire face, and when Murdoch delivered his patented crushing elbowsmash—a maneuver that leaves most of his opponents writhing in pain—all he got for his troubles was a sore elbow from crashing into the hard mask.

This mask and any other type of hard casing should be abolished from wrestling. Cloth type masks are fine,

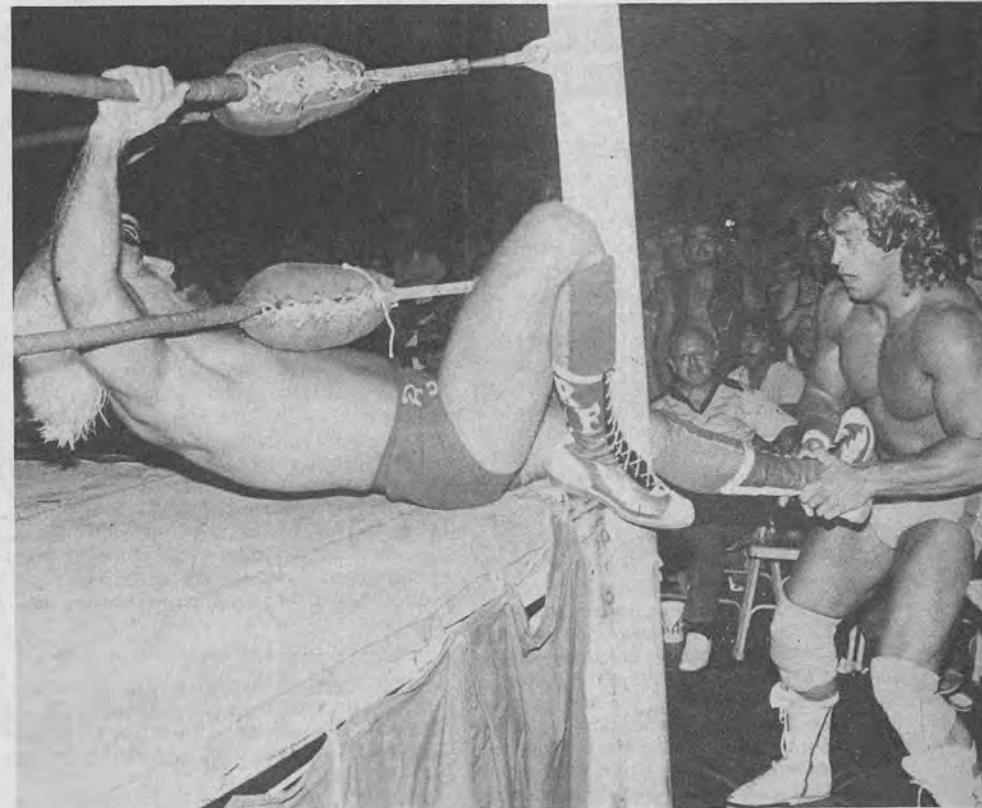
but Humongous was practically wearing a helmet out there.

I write this letter in the hope that other fans who saw the match will write in too, and perhaps Mid-South officials will outlaw Humongous' mask.

ANGELA R. DRAIN
Springdale, AZ

BE FAIR WITH FLAIR

I'm tired of the Von Erichs getting title shots at Ric Flair. Between Kerry



Kerry Von Erich slams Ric Flair's leg into the ringpost. Reader Sandy LeGrande feels that the Von Erichs are given too many title shots.

and Kevin, they must get 10 shots a year. Harley Race, a seven-time NWA champion, is lucky to get one or two shots a year. Flair and Race are twice the men that the Von Erichs are and deserve to be treated with more respect. The Von Erichs are given special privileges just because of the magic of their names. To beat one of them in Texas—especially with David Manning as referee—you have to wrestle the match of your life. They get every call, every break, and every fast count. The

Von Erichs should just start their own federation and install Kevin and Kerry as co-champions. That would please the fans, the Von Erichs, and everyone

(Continued on page 62)

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2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

P.S. One more thing (say, this Du Vall is a windy so and so, isn't he!). There are lots of people right now in bad financial straits. I hope you're not one of them, but if you are, having read this ad you now have absolutely no excuse for being broke, because as the saying goes, "This is it!" This could truly be the once-and-for-all solution to any money miseries you have. I guess you'll have to take my word for it until you receive these fabulous reports — but if it eases your mind any, over 1,000,000 men and women worldwide have been, over the years repeat buyers of my books, courses, reports, cassette tape programs and newsletters. There must be a reason . . .

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

Listen to this quote from Precious Paul Ellering, manager of The Road Warriors: "Hawk and Animal are incapable of feeling jealousy toward one another. The success of one brings joy to the other."

Listen to this quote from Road Warrior Animal: "I have no ego. What I earn on my own is shared equally by my brother Hawk."

Now listen to this quote from Road Warrior Hawk: "Whaddya mean Animal is gonna get a shot at Ric Flair?"

Is there trouble brewing at Ellering's smorgasbord of violence? The Road Warriors, who have been an inseparable team for almost three years, may be torn apart by the personal ambitions of Ellering and Animal. The hottest rumor around wrestling circles this month is that Ellering is negotiating with promoter Jim Crockett for an NWA title shot for Animal.

Why would Ellering risk upsetting the most successful tag team in history? And why would he want Animal, and not Hawk, to get an NWA title shot? The answers are obvious. While it is lucrative being the manager of the AWA tag team champions, Ellering knows he can earn twice as much if he controls the NWA World title. And Animal is Ellering's choice for the shot because he has about a year more of wrestling experience than Hawk.

The most surprising thing about this rumor is that Hawk doesn't seem to know what his manager is doing. But Ellering says he is in complete control of the Warriors' business affairs. "I am a financial genius," Ellering told me. "I don't buy the Wall Street Journal to read the comics, you know. In my contract with Hawk and Animal it states that I decide who, where, and when they wrestle. Case closed."

Ellering's arrogance blinds him to the potential problems. The Warriors are human, and each man has an ego. Thus far Ellering has controlled them. But if this gamble backfires, the whole empire may collapse.

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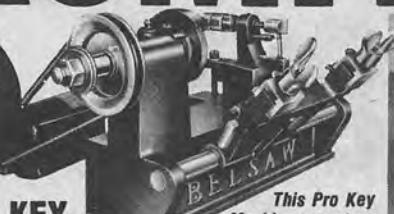
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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

EVERYBODY IS GETTING excited about the possibilities of a Ric Flair-Rick Martel NWA-AWA title-unification match. I, for one, hope the match never takes place.

I'll admit that a Flair-Martel match is intriguing from an athletic standpoint. A lover of sports can't help but be excited about a matchup of two superstars. This would be a tremendous matchup. Flair and Martel are approximately equal in every category: size, power, scientific ability, desire. A Flair-Martel match features two of the best wrestlers in the world in the primes of their respective careers meeting in the ring for the first time. The more I think about the match, the harder it is for me to write this column.

I personally feel that the long-term effects of a Ric Flair-Rick Martel match could be disastrous. I am in the minority when it comes to the question of multiple world champions in wrestling. I am in favor of it. The world is too big a place for one champion to cover. The three-world champion setup allows three times as many fans to see world title matches.

By that reasoning, I'm sure many of you are thinking, why not have 10 world champions or 20 or a hundred? I don't have a real good answer for you, to be honest. In my mind, there has to be a cutoff point, or there will be no meaning to the words "world champion." There are three major wrestling federations in the world, so it seems logical to me that the cutoff point should be three.

How much credibility do any of the three world champions have when there are two other people claiming the same title? Wrestling is much like other sports. You, as

(Continued on page 56)

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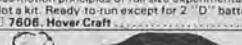
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A amazingly loud noise that can pop them

LAST ISSUE, I used the space on this page to talk about being a videocassette producer. Now I'd like to talk a little bit about being a television star. Well, not a *star* actually—not like Bill Cosby or Don Johnson or Pat Sajak.

No, Bill Apter isn't in that category. Yet. But I'm sure there isn't a reader out there who wouldn't want to be in Apter's shoes when he sits in front of the camera each week and interviews Ric Flair and the top contenders to Flair's NWA World title.

The feature is called "Scouting Report," and it appears each Sunday evening on WTBS' *Best Of World Championship Wrestling*.

The 10-minute segment examines the strengths and weaknesses of Flair's top challengers. It examines Flair's title defenses in detail. It delves into the mind of the NWA champion in a way quite unlike anyone ever has before.

"It's really a unique kind of television segment for a wrestling program," notes Editor-in-Chief Peter King. "On most wrestling interviews, you hear a man screaming and yelling about an upcoming match. Or if it's a wrestler interviewing another wrestler, you can be pretty certain that it will deteriorate into an insult session. 'Scouting Report' tries to be more than either of those concepts. It attempts to take a quiet, reserved, and professional look into the mind and life of a world champion. If it's successful on WTBS, we hope to expand it to other wrestling programs around the country."

Make no mistake about it: "Scouting Report" requires a great deal of work and preparation.

"I usually fly down to Charlotte, North Carolina, to tape the 'Scouting Report' segment on a Thursday," notes Bill Apter. "Flair graciously flies into Charlotte, and we meet at the studios of Jim Crockett Promotions, where any match tape to be analyzed on the segment is already there and waiting for us."

What is a typical Thursday's taping like?

"Well, since I live in New York and not in North Carolina, I have to get up at about five in the morning," Apter explains. "I get dressed and have breakfast, then drive to New York's LaGuardia airport to catch the seven a.m. flight to Charlotte.

"During the flight, I review my notes for the show we're going to tape that day," Apter continued. "For example, on one segment, Flair and I discussed Nikita Koloff, Magnum T.A., and Carlos Colon. I have files on each man, and I read through stories about those particular wrestlers, and match reports of their past title contests with Flair.

"I arrive in Charlotte at about 8:30 and take a taxi to the television studio. But there's no resting when I get there—it's right to work as I meet with the technical



crew in the production trailer to discuss the format of the show. Camera angles, lighting, and any match videotape segments have to be thoroughly planned before the first second of a 'Scouting Report' is shot, and the technical crew at Jim Crockett Promotions—including David and Jackie Crockett, Wayne Daniel, and Emerson Lawson—is top-notch all the way.

"A lighting check takes place at about 10 o'clock as I sit in my chair and a technician sits in for Flair. Generally, Flair is either on an airplane at this hour of the morning or on his way to or from an airport—the life of the NWA World champion is a life on the road.

"Flair arrives somewhere between 11 and noon, and preparations are made to begin taping. I don't discuss anything with Flair prior to the tape rolling, as I want his answers to be completely and totally spontaneous.

"Believe me, it is tough to rattle the champion. Flair is smart, he's analytical, and he chooses his words very carefully. You know, it's really quite interesting; Flair exudes a kind of reserved quiet confidence and, yes, I guess you could call it arrogance—but it's quite different from the Ric Flair I'm used to seeing in the ring. This is the intellectual Flair, as opposed to the physical Flair. And it's refreshing.



Bill Apter & Ric Flair

"About 10 minutes later, the interview is complete. What you see on the screen is virtually a live segment. An hour later, the technicians are gone. I'm in a taxi heading back to the Charlotte airport. More often than not Flair is with me, as he's flying off to some corner of the country, or maybe even to Japan, to defend his World title.

"And on Sunday night, when I tune in to WTBS at 7:05 p.m. and watch *Best Of World Championship Wrestling*, I can hardly believe it ever happened. But it did, and it's an experience I'm happy to be a part of. I hope the fans enjoy these interviews as much as I enjoy conducting them."

Ah, the life of a TV star. Bill Apter enjoys it, and I'm sure you'll enjoy "Scouting Report," too. Write to us in care of this magazine, and let Bill (and Ric Flair!) know what you think. □

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NAMES MAKI

There's a lot of movement in wrestling this month. Some of the sport's top stars are traveling from one area to another.

Dick Slater recently signed a contract to wrestle in the Mid-South area. Upon his arrival, Slater surprised Mid-South fans, and the entire wrestling world, by coming to the ring aided by a valet. "I just want to say that first of all, my valet deserves a lot of respect and I'm not gonna tolerate any mistreatment by the fans or anybody else. Secondly, I'm on a mission here in the Mid-South. I'm not saying what it is, and I'm not saying who it's gonna be, but I will say that I'm not after any titles." Looks like "Mr. Unpredictable" is going to be living up to his name over the next few months!

In the December 1985 edition of *The Wrestler*, we presented a story entitled "World Class Fans vs. Mid-South Fans: 'We Want **The Fantastics!**'" Well, it seems as if the World Class area fans have won the tug-of-war. **Tommy Rogers** and **Bobby Fulton** should be back in Texas by the time you read this.



THE FANTASTICS

Scott McGhee, who formerly wrestled in Florida, is now in the WWF . . .

Scott Armstrong and his brother **Steve** are headed from the Southeast area to the Mid-Southern area for a series of matches . . . **Stan Hansen** is now wrestling full-time in the AWA,



STAN HANSEN

and is feuding with AWA World champion **Rick Martel**.

Congratulations are extended to **Terry Taylor**, who won the National heavyweight title from **Black Bart** on September 22 in Atlanta. Taylor is a terrific wrestler, and he should restore to the National title a measure of respect, honor, and recognition that it didn't have under Bart's reign.

Diamond Timothy Flowers received 42 stitches in his head following a recent match with Pacific Northwest heavyweight champion **Ricky Vaughan** . . . **Kevin Sullivan** has returned to Florida, and now has **Bob Roop** under his satanic control. Certainly Roop can't be under his own control—I can't think of anyone who



KEVIN SULLIVAN

would willingly shave his head and moustache on only one side! . . . **Jerry Lawler** will soon receive an AWA World title shot with **Rick Martel** in Nashville, Tennessee.

Looks like a big feud is in the offing between U.S. heavyweight champions **Billy Jack Haynes** and **Wahoo McDaniel** and National tag champs **Ole** and **Arn Anderson**. We hear that negotiations are underway among promoters and NWA wrestling officials to set up a series of matches that would ultimately unite the two championships (most title vs. title matches stipulate only one title on the line. Even if both titles are on the line, a unification is rare; if the match goes to a definite conclusion, the team would hold the two separate titles rather than one unified championship). We'll see.

I can't believe that **The Fabulous Ones** continue to feud with **The Kiwi**

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

Sheepherders in the Mid-Southern area; this is one of the bloodiest feuds I've ever seen . . . **Johnny Tatum** has a new valet in the World Class area by the name of **Missy**, and it doesn't appear as if she's getting along too well with **Sunshine**. Remember when Sunshine and **Precious** feuded a few years back when **Jim Garvin** was in



SUNSHINE

the area? . . . **Rocky Johnson** is wrestling in the Mid-Southern area.

Hector Guerrero is now wrestling in Florida and is after the Southern heavyweight title, currently held by **Rick Rude** . . . More wrestling on cable television: The Financial News Network will soon begin airing Polynesian Pro Wrestling on Saturday nights at 9 p.m. (Eastern time). PPW features such stars as **Siva Afi**, **Lars Anderson**, **Rocky** and **Ricky Johnson**, **Bad News Allen**, **Superfly Tui**, **The Dirty White Boys**, and **Jimmy**

Snuka . . . **Tom Zenk** has received the AWA-sponsored "AWA Wrestler of the Year" award.

A series of matches have been held in the Mid-South area between North American champion **Dick Murdoch** and Mid-South television champion **Butch Reed**—at stake is the number one contention position to NWA World



DICK MURDOCH

champion **Ric Flair** . . . Speaking of Flair, there are intense negotiations going on right now for a Flair-Martel title vs. title match. It looks like the match may well take place in Japan before the year is out . . . A recently televised WWF match saw **The British Bulldogs**, **Dynamite Kid** and **Davey Boy Smith** score a disqualification victory over WWF tag team champions **Greg Valentine** and **Brutus Beefcake**.

A shocking result from Japan: **Giant Machine**, who is **Andre the Giant** in a **Strong Machine** mask and is managed by the hated manager **Wakamatsu**, scored a pinfall victory over **Antonio Inoki**! According to one published report, this is the first pinfall loss Inoki has suffered in nearly seven years!

Steve Simpson and **Joe Savoldi** are a new combination in the Pacific Northwest, wrestling as **The S&S Express**. They look great, I might add . . . Now that **Ted DiBiase** is back from Japan and has learned that **Steve Williams** and **Bob Sweetan** lost the Mid-South tag team belts (formerly held by Williams and DiBiase), it appears as if a DiBiase-Sweetan feud is in the offing . . . 25,000 fans in Puerto Rico recently saw **Abdullah the Butcher** and **Carlos Colon** battle to a bloody double-disqualification.



COLON VS. ABDULLAH

Also on that card, **The Road Warriors** were disqualified in their match with **The Fabulous Ones**.

Don't forget to watch me interviewing NWA World champion **Ric Flair** on "Scouting Report" on WTBS' *Best Of World Championship Wrestling* every Sunday evening at 7:05 p.m. (Eastern time). Each week we discuss the top contenders to his title, including not only World Championship stars, but contenders from the Mid-Southern, World Class, Mid-South, and AWA areas as well.

That's all for now, wrestling fans. See you at the matches! □

BACK ISSUES OF



Wrestling

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of INSIDE WRESTLING, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbysko, Heenan, Strongbow.

August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvin, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.

May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

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March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

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December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

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October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.

November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

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November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff. January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

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June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

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January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdinck.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbysko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdallah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

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October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

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January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

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April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano, Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd, Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbysko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

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November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

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July 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Sammartino, Race, Rhodes.

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January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

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July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

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June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

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October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

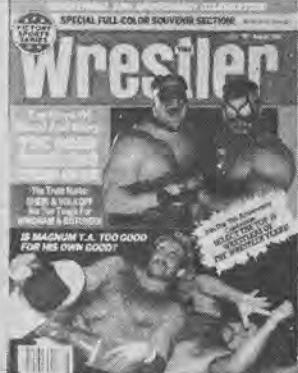
September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.



AUGUST 1985

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.



OCTOBER 1985

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Sammons, Blassie, Wrestling II.

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August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorf.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

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January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]

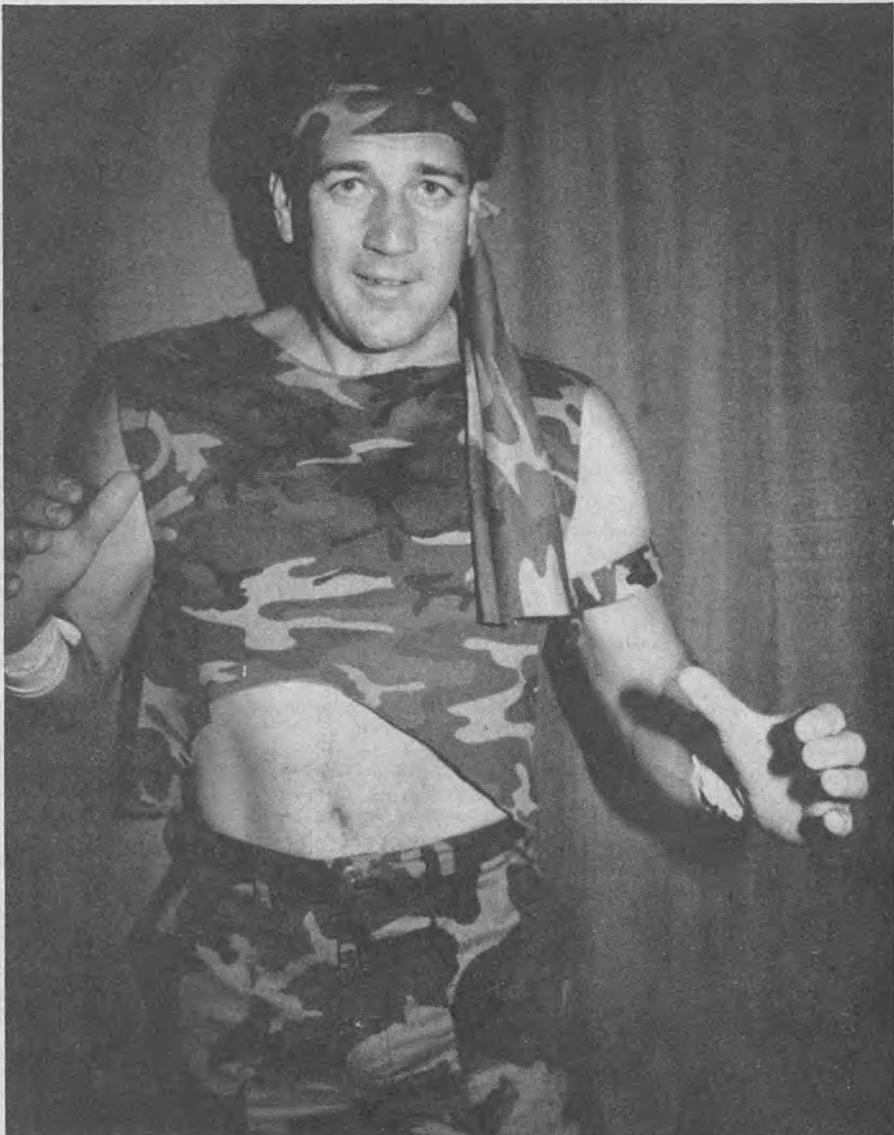
RECENTLY, IN A final, futile, and almost fatal attempt to impress a girl who stole my fancy, I decided to cook her up one of my tantalizing dinners. This girl was so affected by my effort that she took my souffle and clobbered me over the head with it. Although it was touch-and-go for several days, with the help of a crack medical team I survived the assault. However, my stay in intensive care frightened me into wondering about what would happen if I did visit the Land of the Departed. In the ensuing battle for my wordly possessions, what unfortunate souls would get trampled? It was then, during my somber convalescence, that I decided to pen the following will. It is written during a break in the fever, when both my mind and body were unreservedly sound.

THE LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF EDWARD S. ELLNER

To Greg Gagne: I leave Greg my collection of Madonna records and a copy of the book "Honor Thy Father."

To The Missing Link: I leave to the Link my grandmother, whose unabashed nagging would undoubtedly turn this lunatic sane.

To Roddy Piper: To the inimitable Scot goes my prized collec-



Dressed in his fatigues, Greg Gagne displays about as much midriff as Madonna. I think Greg would probaby have as much success as a singer as he has as a wrestler.

tion of Jimi Hendrix's Greatest Hits As Interpreted By The Glasgow Little Boys' Choir.

To Precious: The lovely valet of Jimmy Garvin will get the one-ounce bottle of Chanel Number 5 perfume that I had originally purchased with a certain young lady in mind.

To Kabuki: I give the number of my orthodontist.

To George Steele: The Animal will get my college diploma, which proved worthless to me in life. I'm encouraged that Steele will find it equally as valueless.

To Kamala: I leave my living
(Continued on page 20)

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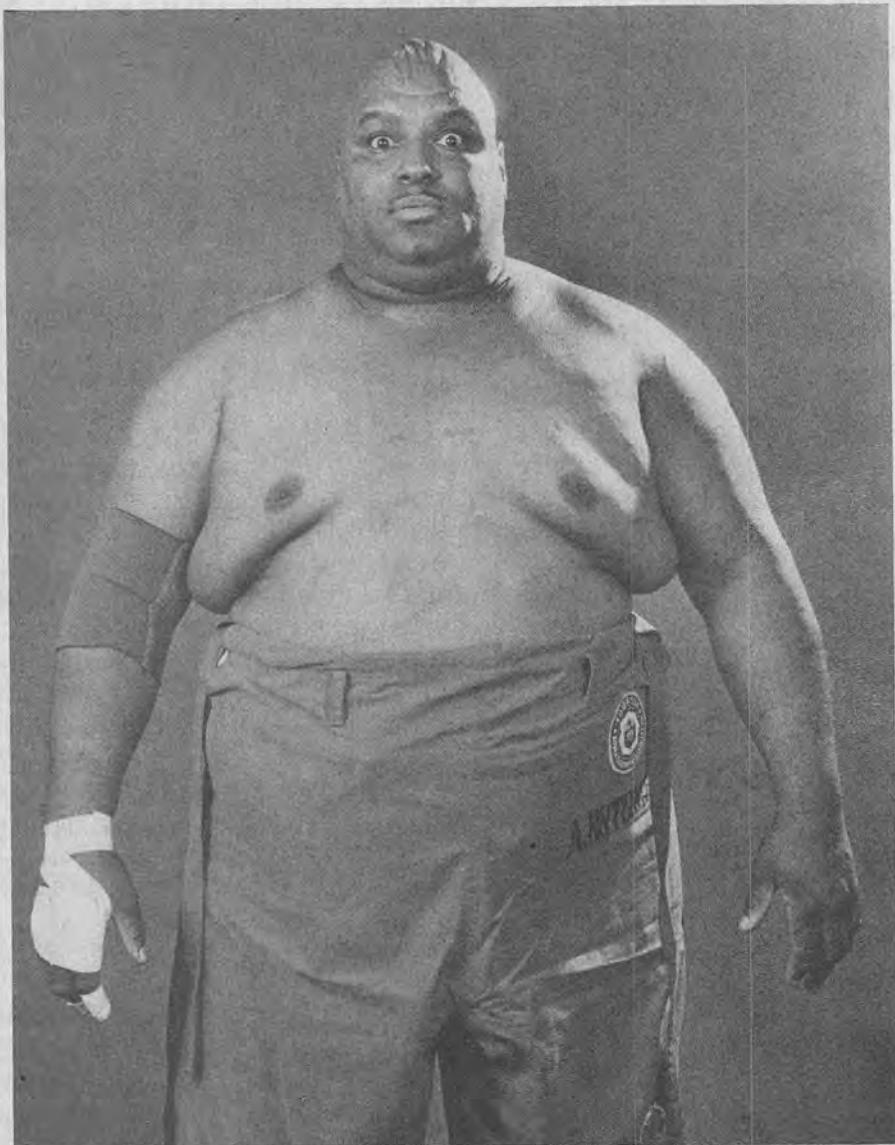
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INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)



Abdullah the Butcher could pass Ann Landers' pencil test with ease. I'd give him a good shot at passing the baseball bat test.

room furniture and kitchen cutlery so that he may have an endless supply of foreign objects.

To Abdullah the Butcher: I leave Abe my old girlfriend's training bra.

To B. Brian Blair: To Brian I leave the garment center sales job originally offered to me by a dense but well-meaning clothes exec. It's never too late to change in midstream, Brian, especially when you're liable to make a couple of bucks in the deal.

To Nikolai Volkoff: I leave my collector's edition recording of *Ruben Blades Sings Moscow's*

Greatest Love Songs. Included on the disc are such favorites as "I Left My Sirniki On The Doorstep To Your Heart, Babe," "Friday I Got Natasha On My Mind, Babe," "Boris Meets Rosalita, Babe," and the dance party re-mix of "Rusky Rap, Babe."

WELCOME TO THE SOAPBOX

I am sick and tired of hearing of what a talented, ingenious, gifted, cunning, endowed, and clever manager Precious Paul Ellering is. More than any other team in wrestling, The Road Warriors are a self-sustaining unit. In two years

I have not seen them once change their strategy. There is a policy of straightforward destruction without nuance or subtlety. All Ellering does is rattle his cane or his *Wall Street Journal* and wax not so eloquently about the superiority of his Warriors. But he is nothing but an overpaid cheerleader. His talents lie in his abilities to dupe Hawk and Animal into thinking that they actually need him. Take a man like Percy Pringle. Pringle courageously takes the management of Jack Hart, a man whose career is mired in defeat and hopelessness and guides him to the Florida championship. That in addition to managing several other men, all successfully. Ellering claims that managing the Warriors occupies all of his time. That the Warriors require constant attention that leaves him no time to manage anyone else. This veil of self-importance could be destroyed in one month.

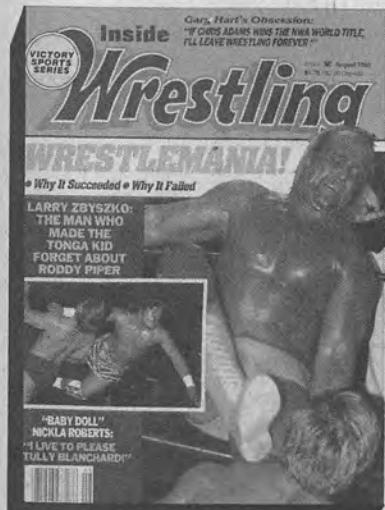
All the Warriors have to do is go on tour without Ellering and they'd discover that what they really need is a valet to handle their bags and arrange their hotel accommodations, a valet that could be had for about one-thirtieth the price of Ellering. Ellering has parlayed a mediocre wrestling career together with a charming TV personality into one of the preeminent positions in the sport—managing what many, including myself, consider to be the most explosive tag team team in the history of pro wrestling. What a sting. Soon some team equal to the Warriors in strength—maybe the Koloffs, maybe some team not yet formed—will challenge them for their title and the Warriors will turn to Ellering for some practical advice. At that time, my point will be proven. □

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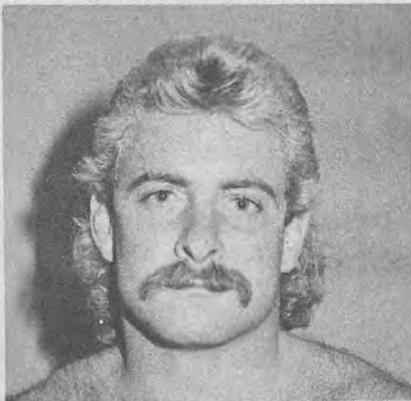
NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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PHILADELPHIA, PA

By Bob Pivoroff



MAGNUM T.A.
vs.
TULLY BLANCHARD

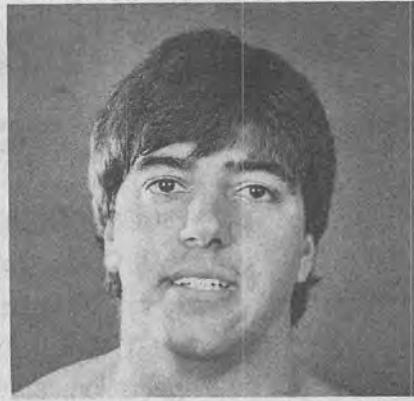


Blanchard defended the U.S. title against the man he had won it from in a no-disqualification match. Baby Doll handed Blanchard a foreign object, which he used to bloody T.A. Magnum retaliated and drew blood from Blanchard, but he was unable to get the object. Blanchard ultimately won the match after knocking T.A. out with the weapon.

OTHER BOUTS: Ric Flair defeated Dusty Rhodes ... The Road Warriors defeated The Koloffs ... Ole Anderson beat Sam Houston ... Arn Anderson beat Starship Eagle ... Mike Davis drew with Rocky King ... Little Coco prevailed over Cowboy Lang.

LAS VEGAS, NV

By Jay Elliott Jr.



RICK MARTEL
vs.
MICHAEL HAYES



Martel was in rare form for this title tilt in the desert city. Seeking revenge for the time when Hayes blackjacked him and stole his belt, Martel ripped into the Freebird and never let up. When Terry Gordy ran into the ring to help Hayes, Martel attacked him, too. Around the 10-minute mark, Martel pinned Hayes and retained his belt.

OTHER BOUTS: Greg Gagne & Sgt. Slaughter defeated Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel by disqualification ... Terry Gordy defeated Baron Von Raschke ... Boris Zurkoff beat Steve Olsonoski ... Larry Zbyszko defeated Buck Zumhofe ... Billy Robinson and Brad Rheingans fought to a draw.

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ

By Hank B. Long



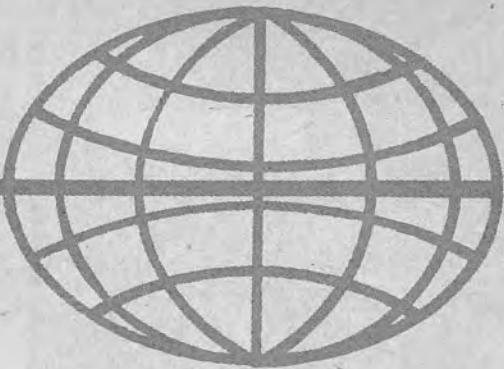
TONY ATLAS
vs.
THE MISSING LINK



This contest of muscles vs. mayhem ended spectacularly when Atlas squeezed the Link into a crunching bearhug and flipped him over for the pin. Before that, the Link had Atlas confused with his erratic ring behavior, which on this night included howling, banging off each turnbuckle, and running aimlessly around the ring. In the end, though, Atlas' brute strength prevailed.

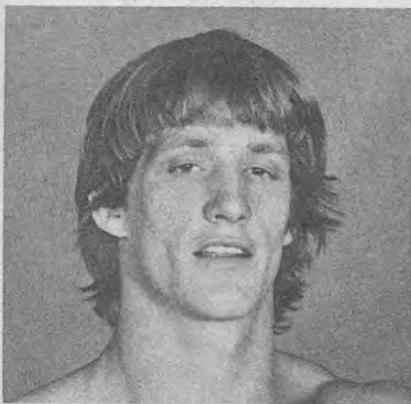
OTHER BOUTS: Nikolai Volkoff defeated Ivan Putski ... Pedro Morales defeated Magnificent Muraco ... Iron Sheik defeated Cousin Junior ... King Tonga beat Moondog Spot ... The Killer Bees drew with The Hart Foundation ... King Kong Bundy defeated Jose Luis Rivera and won a \$50,000 battle royal ... Big John Studd defeated Gator Wolf.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



ABILENE, TX

By Paula Rankin



KEVIN VON ERICH
vs.
CHRIS ADAMS

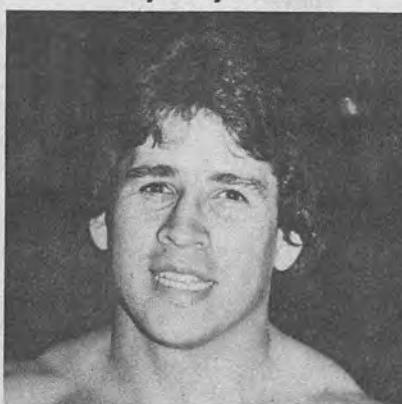


Yet another Texas death match in wrestling's version of the Hundred Year War. This two-out-of-three-fall match saw Adams take the first fall rather easily with a sunset flip. Von Erich came back strong to tie the match. The deciding fall took place mostly outside the ring and ended when Von Erich hit Adams over the head with a chair. Adams was counted out and Von Erich was declared the victor.

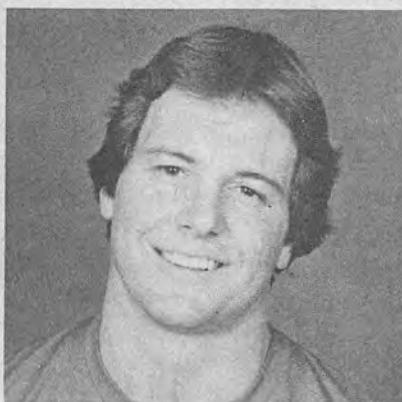
OTHER BOUTS: Brian Adidas defeated Gino Hernandez . . . Iceman Parsons defeated Maniac Mark Lewin . . . Misty Blue Simms defeated Linda Dallas . . . Scott Casey and Johnny Tatum wrestled to a draw.

COLUMBUS, OH

By Larry Fritz



TITO SANTANA
vs.
RODDY PIPER

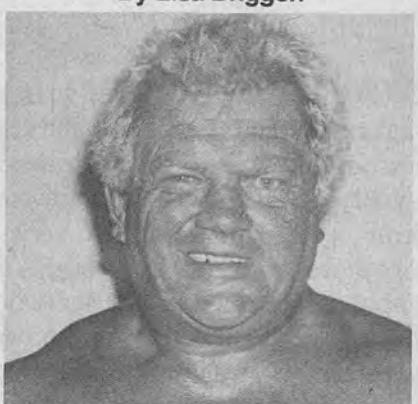


Piper raged like a madman during his attempt to wrest the Intercontinental championship from the popular Latin. To his credit, Santana maintained his control throughout the match and was able to keep Piper at bay. In desperation, Piper slugged the referee and clamped the sleeper onto Santana. When the referee recovered, he disqualified Piper and threatened him with a fine.

OTHER BOUTS: Junkyard Dog & George Steele defeated The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff . . . Adrian Adonis defeated Jose Luis Rivera . . . Missing Link beat Swede Hanson . . . Jim Brunzell defeated Barry O . . . B. Brian Blair defeated Ron Shaw . . . Spider Lady beat Linda Gonzales.

ST. LOUIS, MO

By Lisa Brigen



DICK THE BRUISER
vs.
MR. POGO



The veteran Bruiser needed all of his wits and experience against the dangerous martial artist. Pogo, the Central States champion, weakened Bruiser with karate chops and leg sweeps, and for a moment it seemed as if Bruiser would leave the ring. Instead, he came back with his unique brand of rough-house wrestling and defeated Pogo in this non-title match.

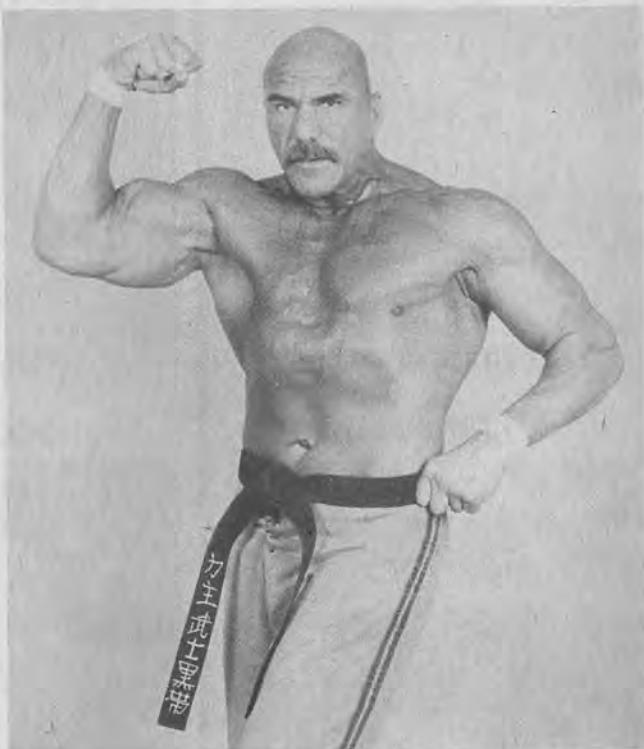
OTHER BOUTS: Harley Race defeated Crusher Blackwell . . . Liz Chase defeated Sandy Partlow . . . Cowboy Lang & Pepper Gonzales defeated Bobo Johnson & Little John . . . Gary Royal defeated Mike George.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

TOKYO, JAPAN: Big news! In Japan you bow so damn much that after a day and a half I threw my back out and was forced into convalescence. Unable to find a McDonalds that delivered, imagine my horror when my host, the very gracious Mitsu Magoyaoya, thoughtfully brought me my lunch, a lavishly ornate plateful of sushi. To deny one's hospitality in this land is to flirt with death, so I had no choice but to swallow his slithering assortment of scales. And you know what? They were disgusting! Just as I had suspected. No wonder these Japenese are so small. These little eely critters must stunt your growth. But anyway, there's news out of the Land of the Rising Sun that dwarfs the changes in my diet. Area promoters are rumored to be within inches of signing a contract that would pit Ric Flair against Rick Martel in a title-unification match. The possibility of such a match has this entire island nation abuzz with excitement. The only item, it seems, holding up the negotiations is pinning down a time when both grapplers are free from other commitments. Imagine. What had been but a pipe dream of wrestling fans everywhere now seems almost certain to take place. If negotiations remain steady, then the match will be beamed back to the states via closed-circuit television, where I will watch it, greedily hungering over a rack of ribs, some mashed potatoes, corn-on-the-cob and a 12-pack of Olde English.

CHARLOTTE, NC: Superstar Billy Graham, a name mentioned often by the editors while they were compiling their lists of the 10 greatest wrestlers of the past 20 years for the January issue of *The Wrestler*, seems to be toning down his use of the martial arts. I agree with Editor-in-Chief Peter King who pegged Graham as one of the most underrated wrestlers of all time, and I think that he was far better off when he stuck to conventional wrestling holds and power moves. Graham's strength lies in



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

his great strength. The martial arts, while providing him with a sense of discipline and an overall strategy, inhibited his instincts. Karate was not in the Superstar's repertoire when he was WWF champ. Since donning the gi, he has not been able to repeat that success. Although it would be senseless to totally ignore a style of self-defense that could help him in the ring, it's good to see him paying more attention to the basics.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN: Seeking to fill the gap created by the defection of Jim Brunzell, Greg Gagne has been teaming lately with Curt Hennig to some strong reviews. For nostalgia buffs, it's a kick to watch Verne Gagne and Larry Hennig's kids teaming with each other, although you begin to feel your age creeping up on you like a sinister shadow.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



CURT HENNIG VS. IRON DUKE

A hundred hallelujahs to Hennig and Gagne for crushing the challenge of Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens. That veteran pair had been making life a miserable proposition for Gagne after Brunzell left for the zany pastures of the WWF. It had gotten so bad that even the old man, Verne, tied on the boots for a comeback. Still, every match Greg wrestled would somehow end up with him getting double- and triple-teamed by his opponent and Bockwinkel and Stevens. Lately, Gagne had even trained with Sgt. Slaughter and adopted a Rambo motif, confusing inspiration for mock patriotism. However good his intentions, I don't know think Greg Gagne was cut out for the military life. The addition of Hennig is what has helped more than his gig at playing war. It will take some time before Gagne and Hennig will run as smoothly as Gagne and Brunzell, but in time they might prove to be a more formidable team than the old Hi-Flyers. Look for them to make a run at The Road Warriors in the near future.

DALLAS, TX: Like two alley cats scratching over a trash can, Sunshine and Hollywood Johnny Tatum's new valet, Missy, have been pouncing on each other with the savage wrath of spurned lovers. Sunshine, who's been down this path before, is fending off the underhanded tactics of Tatum and Missy that have

disrupted several matches involving her man, Scott Casey. No matter how justified the circumstance, I still cannot get accustomed to Sunshine's crusade. I think it's her ring posture that irks me. She's so indignant. Always so righteous and just. Of course, in theory her actions are justified. Tatum is a low-life lizard who will bend the rules nine times out of 10. And Missy is your typical, imbecilic, thoughtless, "if-mah-man-says-to-do-it-then-ahm-gonna-do-it" kind of wench. They are both thoroughly deserving of a good-sized thrashing, and I suppose that I should be grateful that there are such people as Sunshine willing to sacrifice personal glory for the betterment of



MISSY VS. SUNSHINE

the sport. I just wish she'd do it in a more dignified, more subdued manner. Pound for pound these ladies dispense as much punishment as anyone in the game. In their past lives you know that Missy and Sunshine owned competing bordellos in Dodge City. Their battles are that intense. Tatum, who's been feuding with Brian Adidas as well as Casey, is almost incidental to the proceedings. Missy and Sunshine are main event material, and I'm not sure whether I hanker to such a notion. This is a man's game, where only a man's blood ought to be spilled. Women should be home, waiting to tend to their bleeding men, not in the ring, where an accidental paw might kill 'em. And that's that. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



JIMMY SNUKA

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka left the WWF to return to his native Fiji Islands, followed by a vacation in the Hawaiian islands where he planned on visiting some friends. Snuka, not the kind of man who can stay out of the ring

for a prolonged period of time, cut his vacation short and has begun wrestling occasionally for Polynesian Pacific Championship wrestling. Snuka is also scheduled to make a tour of Japan in the coming months. He has no plans to return to the mainland in the immediate future.



MASKED SUPERSTAR

After a lengthy and extremely successful world tour, Masked Superstar is back in the WWF, where he hopes to receive a title shot against WWF World heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan. During his last appearance in the area, Superstar distinguished himself in dubious fashion, placing Eddie Gilbert in the hospital and out of action for several months as the result of a series of corkscrew neckbreakers outside the ring. We're certain Superstar's sadistic attitude hasn't diminished at all.



SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE

The hated Sheik, whose stable has diminished greatly over the past two years, has returned to his native homeland and is currently scouring the Middle East in search of wrestling talent to bring back to the United

States. "I have an open bankbook," Al-Kaissie told us by telegram, "and I am looking for the men to dethrone [AWA World champion Rick] Martel and [AWA World tag team champions] The Road Warriors. And I am confident that I will find them!"



TIGER CONWAY JR.

Although not wrestling on a full-time basis, this popular Texas star has not lost his love for the mat sport and still occasionally competes in the Lone Star State on cards sponsored by Lone Star Wrestling, the revitalized organization formerly known as Southwest Championship Wrestling. Despite his fans' urgings that he once again wrestle full-time, Conway says he cannot at this time: He is needed to help run his family business, the Tiger Conway Fence Company, based in Houston.

SGT. SLAUGHTER

NOBODY EXEMPLIFIES THE spirit of American patriotism in professional wrestling more than Sgt. Slaughter ("I love this country, and I'll do whatever I have to do in defense of it") ... Spent the early years of his career as a hated rulebreaker in the WWF and the Mid-Atlantic ("Those were some misguided days") ... Might have defeated WWF champion Bob Backlund in 1981 had he not been hit with a chair by Backlund's manager Arnold Skaaland ("I had the cobra clutch on him and he was just about to quit when I got conked from behind") ... In the Mid-Atlantic, captured the U.S. heavyweight title and feuded heavily with Wahoo McDaniel ("Looking back on it today, it seems odd that I would have feuded with a native American!") ... Also captured the NWA World tag team title with Don Kernodle as his partner ("We had some rough matches, and defended against some rough teams") ... Returned to the WWF in May 1983 ("I was looking for a change in my career, and the WWF seemed like the place to go") ... In less than a year, moved from the Most Hated ratings to the Most Popular ratings as the result of his feud with The Iron Sheik ("That was the first time that I really had to draw on my patriotism in the wrestling ring; I still hate the man with a passion") ... The feud helped catapult

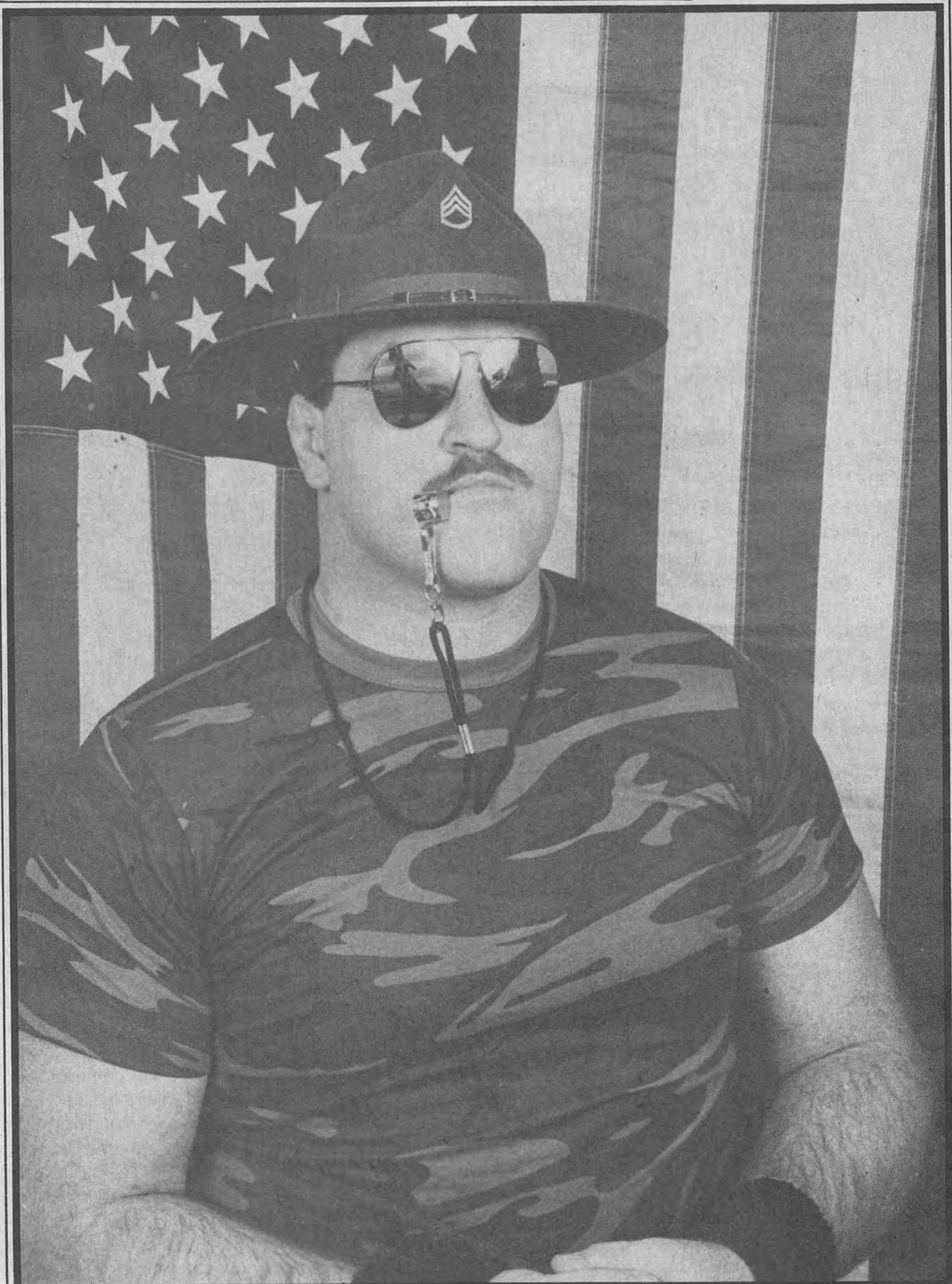


Sgt. Slaughter gains the advantage in a test of strength with Ric Flair. Slaughter had to leave the WWF, where he had become the area's most popular wrestler, to get a world title shot. "Certainly, I was not going to get it from Hogan," he said.

Slaughter to the award as 1984's Inspirational Wrestler of the Year ("The fans responded to my campaign against Iron Sheik more than I ever could have hoped or imagined") ... Quickly became embroiled in a feud with Nikolai Volkoff, but after that there was nowhere for Slaughter to go in the WWF ("I knew I wouldn't get a title shot with Hulk Hogan") ... Joined the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. group in January 1985 ("I welcomed the opportunity to compete for both the AWA and NWA World titles") ... Has received several title shots with NWA

World champion Ric Flair ("I have to hand it to Flair—he's a lot tougher than people give him credit for!") ... Most recently, Slaughter has taken Greg Gagne under his wing ("I'm training Greg to be tougher than he's ever been before in his life. It's going to take a lot more work, but he'll get there; I won't let him fail") ... Continues to be fueled by the fires of his strong patriotic feelings as he battles furiously with Russian Boris Zurkhov ("As long as I live, I will defend the ideals of this beautiful country we live in."). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



SGT. SLAUGHTER

IT'S TIME FOR THE ROAD WARRIORS TO FIRE PRECIOUS PAUL ELLERING!

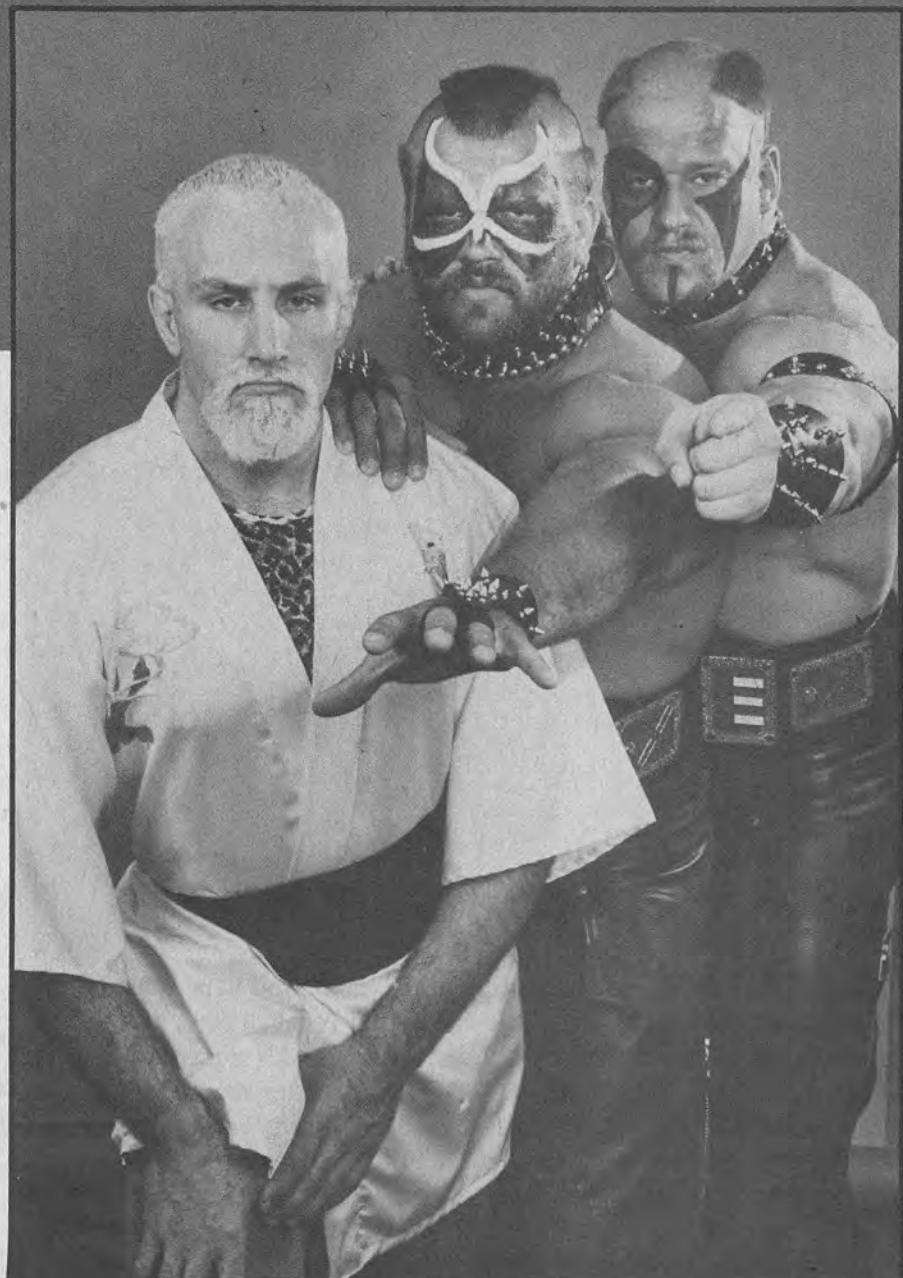
Photos by Bill Otten

The Road Warriors are undeniably the most awesome tag team in wrestling today. They are so well-conditioned that fatigue seems unthinkable where they are concerned. But even Hawk and Animal may not be immune to the erosion caused by mental fatigue

WHENEVER THE Legion of Doom invades the ring, the crowd goes ape. Ear-splitting cheers and bestial wails generally accompany Hawk and Animal on their way to the ring. And this night was no exception.

The Road Warriors were making a rare appearance in Florida, at the Eddie Graham Sports Complex in Orlando. Their opponents for the evening were Billy Jack Haynes and Wahoo McDaniel, the U.S. tag team champions. Even Billy's army of admirers couldn't drown out the hysterical reception for the AWA World tag team champs. Floridians were frothing at the mouth to see the Warriors live, and they showed it. Much to the distress of the undermanned security.

Then the match began, and some-



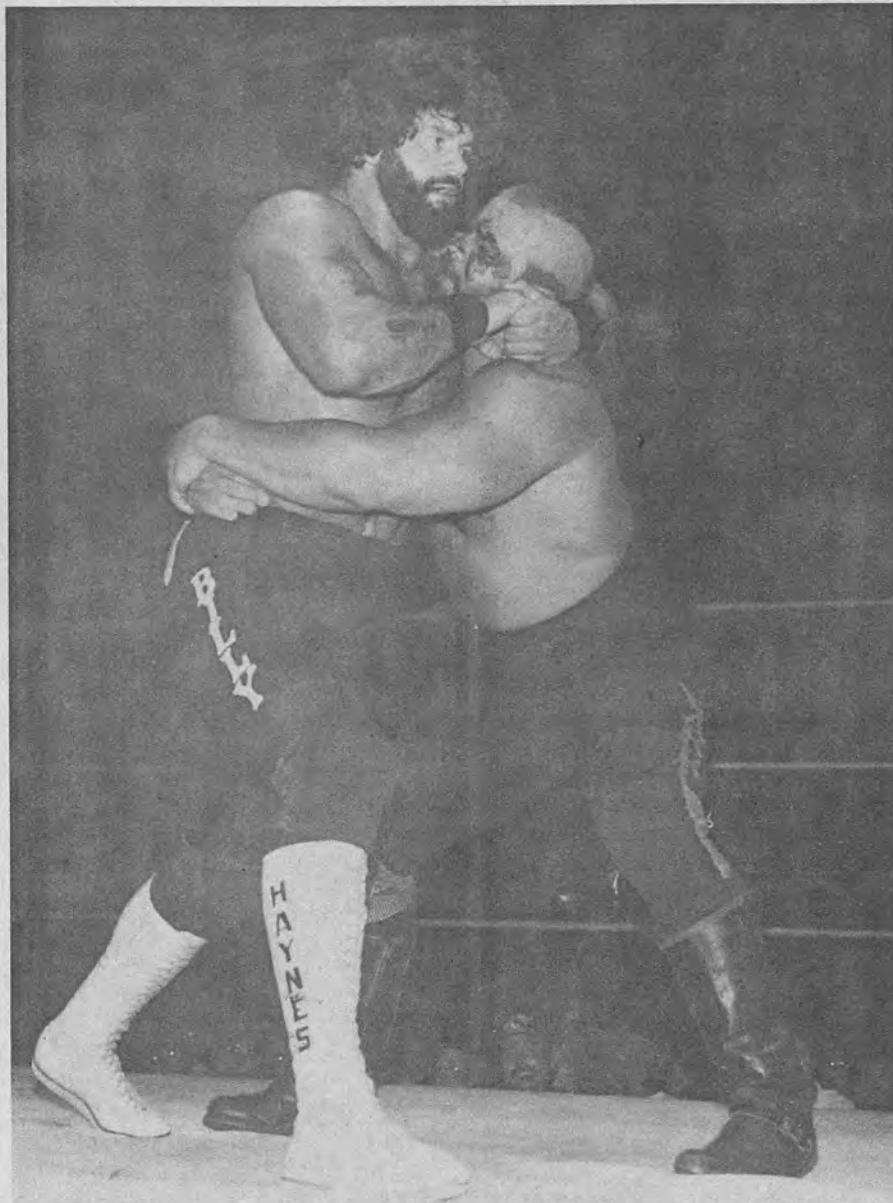
thing happened. Many of the fans, enraptured by the vision of raw talent in the ring, failed to notice it at first. By the end of the evening, however, virtually every fan knew something had gone amiss.

The Road Warriors looked like beaten men.

It wasn't the quality of their wrestling that surprised the fans. The Warriors took care of themselves pretty

well against one of the toughest teams in the sport. In fact, they gave Billy and Wahoo a good thrashing whenever they found themselves in serious trouble, and the Florida champs could never maintain a strong offensive.

Still, something was desperately wrong, and all it took to sense that was a careful look at the Warriors. Hawk and Animal are great wrestlers, and they pulled out all the tried and



true stops in their arsenal: repeated backbreakers, press-and-slams, and spine-snapping clotheslines. But they seemed to be going through the motions. Something was desperately wrong with them; they seemed to be grappling on instinct alone. They looked like well-adjusted Road Warrior automatons, programmed to duplicate the original models.

Even when they were hated, no one could fairly deny that the Warriors had heart. They go at it with all the blood and vinegar and fire they can muster, and keep on going at it until they are physically unable to continue (which has never happened).

But in Orlando the Warriors lacked that competitive fire. Typically, Animal remained impassive throughout the

match; but if you were sitting at ring-side, you could detect a faint melancholia in Hawk's expression when he waited at the tag rope. Hawk, the indomitable Road Warrior, looked sad.

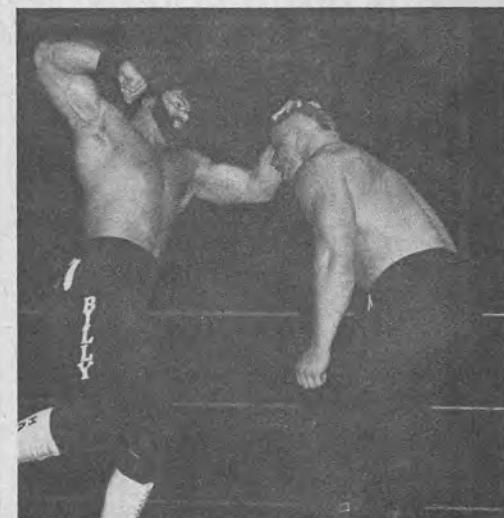
Fans and reporters alike buzzed about the Warriors' curious lack of energy. The writers knew they would have to burrow for the story behind it, but that would be no easy task. Personal interviews with Hawk and/or Animal are extremely rare; most hapless journalists will only hear a little ranting, miscellaneous raving, and threats of violence.

Surprisingly, though, Warriors manager Precious Paul Ellering announced a press conference soon after the match.

"Gentlemen," Ellering boomed

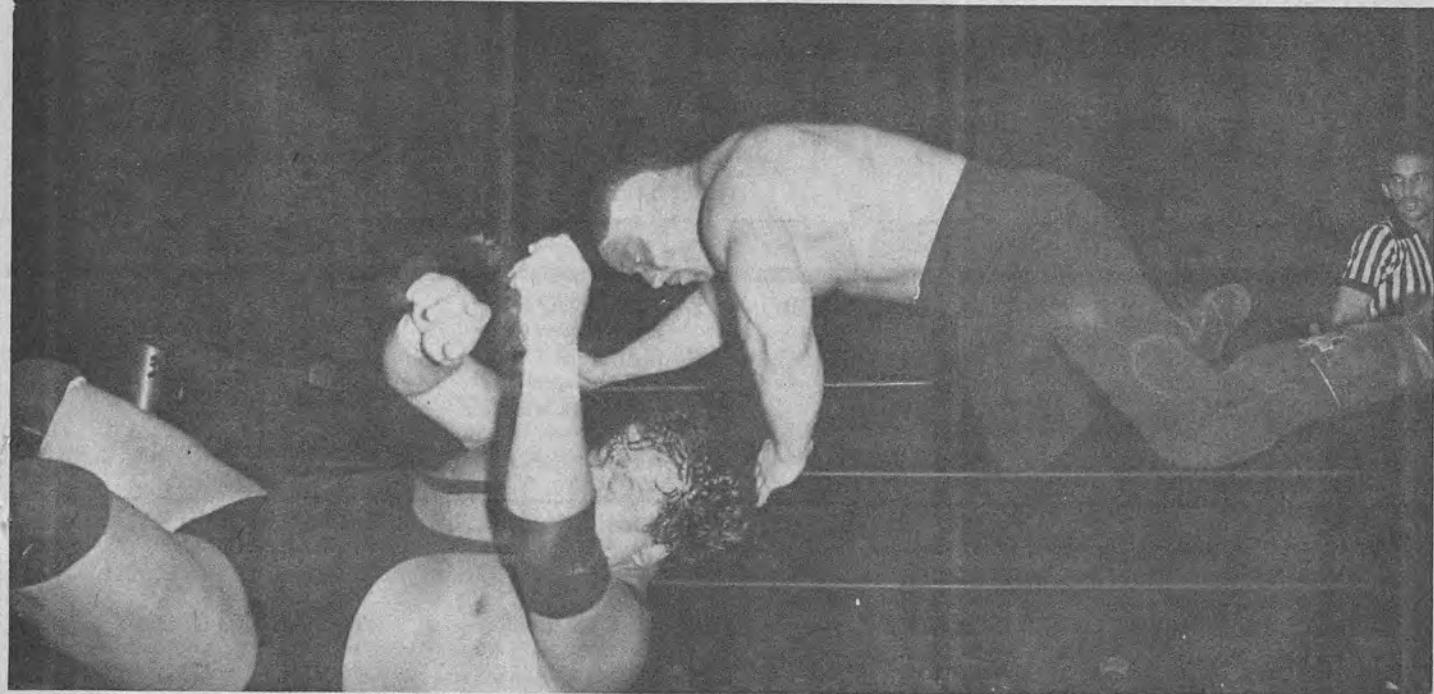


It would take Animal three tries before he was able to push Billy Jack Haynes out of this headlock (left). Hawk controls Haynes with a headlock (above). Soon, both men will be on their feet and Billy will get the better of an exchange of punches (below).

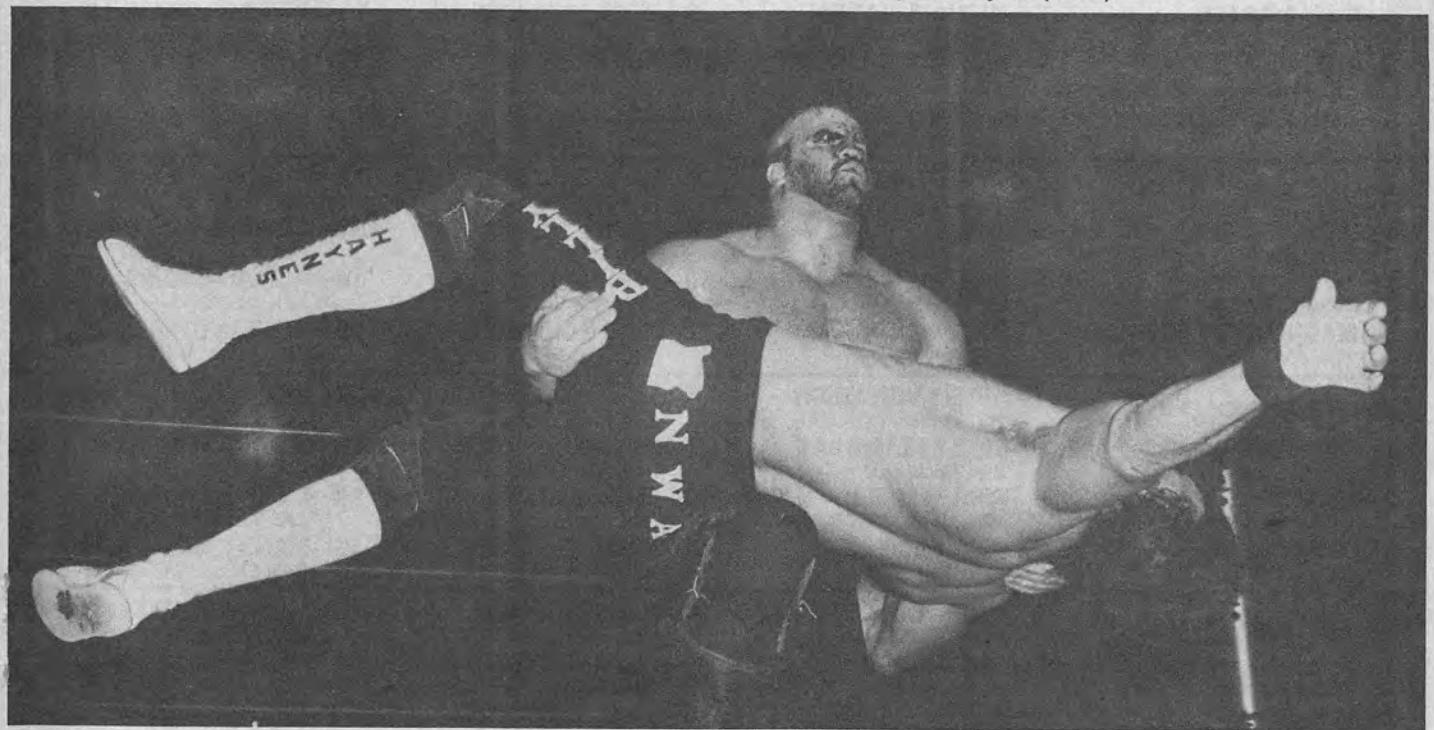


from a podium on one side of the dressing room, "I've called you together to announce plans for The Road Warriors' autumn tour. And I promise you it *will* be a festival of devastation! While the little children of our great land are busy carving pumpkins, the Legion of *Dooooom* will be carving up faces! While Grandpa's breaking drumsticks from the family turkey, we'll be tearing legs from pelvises! Ah, there's *nothing* tastier than a smorgasbord of violence! *Ha, ha, ha!*"

Ellering proceeded to list the Warriors' autumn itinerary in detail. At



Something seemed to be lacking in The Road Warriors' normally precise attack. Hawk miscalculates the condition of Wahoo McDaniel, who rolls away from the diving Warrior (above). One of the Warriors few perfectly executed maneuvers saw Animal using a backbreaker against Haynes (below).



first the reporters faithfully jotted everything down, but then mouths began to drop in shock. The schedule was insane. It wasn't the *number* of matches that was amazing, it was the *travel time* involved that made it oppressive. One night in Minneapolis, the next in Las Vegas. One night Atlantic City, the next a special appearance in St. Louis. Yet another trip to Japan. The Legion of Doom was planning a ran-

dom hip-hop across the globe. It seemed as though they would spend more hours traveling than sleeping this fall.

One reporter piped up the obvious. "Mr. Ellering, don't you think this is a grueling schedule for the champions?"

Apparently, the question startled Ellering, as if he hadn't given it much thought at all. He swallowed, and commenced fiddling with a sliver of

olive-green-painted wood sticking out from a corner of the podium.

"The Legion of Doom has a mission," he answered. "We have heard a lot of cheap talk in recent months, from a multiplicity of woefully inadequate tag teams who dare to mock the Legion of Doom. The arrogance of these individuals astonishes me. The Long Riders, The Fatuous Freebirds,

(Continued on page 60)

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 3—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

NWA

- 1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

AWA

- 1—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 2—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
- 3—LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA

WWF

- 1—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX
- 3—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI

MOST POPULAR

- 1—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

MOST HATED

- 1—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
- 2—RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 3—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford, England

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
AWA World tag team champions
- 2—RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON
NWA World tag team champions
- 3—GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
WWF World tag team champions
- 4—OLE & ARN ANDERSON
National tag team champions
- 5—AL PEREZ & WENDELL COOLEY
Mid-South tag team champions

- 4—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
- 5—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
- 6—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX
- 7—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia

- 4—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 5—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 6—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—NIKITA KOLOFF
276, Moscow, Russia

- 4—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—MICHAEL HAYES
255, Marietta, GA
- 6—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 7—GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN

- 4—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
- 5—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
- 6—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland
- 7—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL

- 4—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
- 5—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
- 6—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 7—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX

- 4—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 5—TED DIBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
- 6—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 6—CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ
No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title
- 7—DENNIS CONDRAY & BOBBY EATON
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 8—WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES
U.S. tag team champions
- 9—STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE
Mid-Southern tag team champions
- 10—BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title

- 8—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 9—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 10—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
- 11—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

- 8—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
- 9—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
- 10—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
- 11—BRIAN ADIDAS
238, Denton, TX

- 8—BORIS ZURKHOV
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 9—BUCK ZUMHOFER
222, Hamburg, MN
- 10—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 11—RAY STEVENS
243, San Francisco, CA

- 8—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA
- 9—ANDRE THE GIANT
505, Grenoble, France
- 10—TERRY FUNK
247, Amarillo, TX
- 11—KING KONG BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ

- 8—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 9—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
- 10—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX
- 11—BRUISER BRODY
284, Albuquerque, NM

- 8—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
- 9—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
- 11—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK

- 11—DYNAMITE KID & DAVEY BOY SMITH
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 12—STEVE WILLIAMS & TED DIBIASE
No. 1 contenders to Mid-South tag team title
- 13—STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE
PWF tag team champions
- 14—ROCKY & RICKY JOHNSON
Polynesian Pacific tag team champions
- 15—BRICKHOUSE BROWN & NORVELL AUSTIN
Southeast tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place . . . Though several Canadian and Japanese championships are listed in the "Roll Call," the ratings themselves reflect United States-based competition.

For period ended September 25, 1985

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

* ALABAMA CHAMPION: ROBERTO SOTO

(September 20, 1985; tournament final over The Flame; Mobile, AL)

ALL-ASIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ISAMU TERANISHI & ANIMAL HAMAGUCHI

(July 18, 1985; from Akio Sato & Takashi Ishikawa; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE REGAL

(March 25, 1984; from Buck Zumhofe; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: RICK MARTEL

(May 13, 1984; from Jumbo Tsuruta; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS

(August 25, 1984; from Crusher & Baron Von Raschke; Las Vegas)

AMERICAS CHAMPION: SGT. SLAUGHTER

(June 21, 1985; from Larry Zbyszko; Chicago, IL)

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: DINO BRAVO

(May 28, 1985; defeated King Tonga to fill vacant title; Montreal)

CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU

(June 12, 1985; defeated King Tonga & Dick Charland to fill vacant title; Quebec City)

* CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: MARTY JANNETTY

(September 22, 1985; from Mr. Pogo; Des Moines, IA)

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Bob Brown & Marty Jannetty)

CENTRAL STATES TV CHAMPION: GARY ROYAL

(March 7, 1985; from Marty Jannetty; Kansas City, KS)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Kendell Windham)

IWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MISTY BLUE SIMMES

(March 30, 1985; from Nickie Ryan; Malden, MA)

MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: BUZZ TYLER

(March 16, 1985; from Ron Bass; Greensboro, NC)

MID-SOUTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: WENDELL COOLEY & AL PEREZ

(August 28, 1985; from Steve Williams & Bob Sweeten; Shreveport, LA)

MID-SOUTH TV CHAMPION: BUTCH REED

(July 22, 1985; from Dutch Mantel; Shreveport, LA)

* MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(September 6, 1985; from Tarrus Balba; Martin, TN)

MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: PHIL HICKERSON

(July 30, 1985; from Terry Taylor; Louisville, KY)

* MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE

(September 17, 1985; from Jonathan Boyd & Rip Morgan; Louisville, KY)

MISSOURI CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

(August 2, 1985; from Jerry Blackwell; St. Louis)

* NATIONAL CHAMPION: TERRY TAYLOR

(September 22, 1985; from Black Bart; Atlanta, GA)

NATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: OLE & ARN ANDERSON

(May 28, 1985; from T-Bolt Patterson & Manny Fernandez; Charlotte, NC)

NWA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(August 31, 1983; from Bruiser Brody; Tokyo, Japan)

* NWA INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

TIGER MASK

(August 31, 1985; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)

NWA INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & TENRYU

(September 3, 1984; from Bruiser Brody & Crusher Blackwell; Japan)

NWA JAPANESE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO SAITO

(July 28, 1985; from The Cobra; Osaka, Japan)

* NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN

(September 15, 1985; from Gary Royal; Atlanta)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV

(December 1984; first team to claim NWA six-man title)

NWA TV CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES

(July 6, 1985; from Tully Blanchard; Charlotte, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 24, 1984; from Jerry Von Erich; Yokosuka City, Japan)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON

(July 9, 1985; from Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev; Shelby, NC)

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: DICK MURDOCH

(August 10, 1985; from The Nightmare; New Orleans)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RICKY VAUGHAN

(August 3, 1985; tournament final over Mike Miller; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

KARL STEINER & MIKE MILLER

(June 1, 1985; tournament final over Bobby Jaggers & Ricky Vaughan; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 30, 1985; from Shohei Baba; Fukuoka, Japan)

* PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE

(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC CHAMPION: LARS ANDERSON

(August 3, 1985; from Bad News Allen; Honolulu)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ROCKY & RICKY JOHNSON

(December 19, 1984; from Superfly Tui & Super Samoan Sakala; Honolulu)

SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

(August 6, 1985; from Austin Idol; Birmingham, AL)

SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TOMMY RICH

(August 2, 1985; from The Flame; Birmingham, AL)

* SOUTHEAST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BRICKHOUSE BROWN & NORVELL AUSTIN

(September 23, 1985; from The Nightmares; Birmingham, AL)

SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

SCOTT ARMSTRONG

(July 5, 1985; from Bill Ash; Montgomery, AL)

SOUTHERN CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(July 21, 1985; tournament final over Mike Graham; Orlando, FL)

* TEXAS ALL-STAR U.S. CHAMPION: TED DIBIASE

(tournament final; Phoenix, Arizona)

* TEXAS ALL-STAR JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DALE VEASEY

(September 1, 1985; tournament final over Terry Daniels; San Antonio, TX)

* TEXAS ALL-STAR TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE AMERICAN FORCE

(September 1, 1985; tournament final over The Hoods; San Antonio, TX)

U.S. CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD

(July 21, 1985; from Magnum T.A.; Charlotte, NC)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BILLY JACK HAYNES & WAHOO McDANIEL

(July 9, 1985; from Rick Rude & Jesse Barr; Tampa, FL)

WORLD CLASS AMERICAN CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS

(July 5, 1985; from Chris Adams; Dallas)

WORLD CLASS MIDDLE EASTERN CHAMPION: MIKE VON ERICH

(August 7, 1985; tournament final over Gino Hernandez; Tel Aviv)

* WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS:

KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH & BRIAN ADIDAS

(September 2, 1985; from Killer Brooks, Mark Lewin, and One Man Gang; Ft. Worth, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez)

WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: JOHN TATUM

(August 5, 1985; from Shawn Cody; Ft. Worth, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: GINO HERNANDEZ

(September 2, 1985; from Brian Adidas; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(March 31, 1985; from Lelani Kai; New York)

WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DESIREE PETERSEN & VELVET McINTYRE

(May 1983; from Joyce Grable & Wendi Richter; Calgary, Alberta)

WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: INVADER III

(January 5, 1985; from Pedro Arguello; Mexico City)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: HERCULES AYALA

(March 10, 1985; from Randy Savage; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

* WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

INVADER I & INVADER III

(September 21, 1985; from Butch Miller & Luke Williams; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(August 3, 1985; from Super Medic; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUTCH MILLER & LUKE WILLIAMS

(June 21, 1985; from Invader III & The Medic; Manati, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(June 15, 1985; from Dory Funk Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TITO SANTANA

(July 6, 1985; from Greg Valentine; Baltimore, MD)

WWF INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TATSUJI FUJINAMI

(August 4, 1983; from Gino Brito; New York)

WWF INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TATSUJI FUJINAMI & KENGO KIMURA

(May 24, 1985; tournament final over Adrian Adonis & Dick Murdoch; Kobe City, Japan)

WWF JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO SAITO

(July 28, 1985; from The Cobra; Osaka, Japan)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)

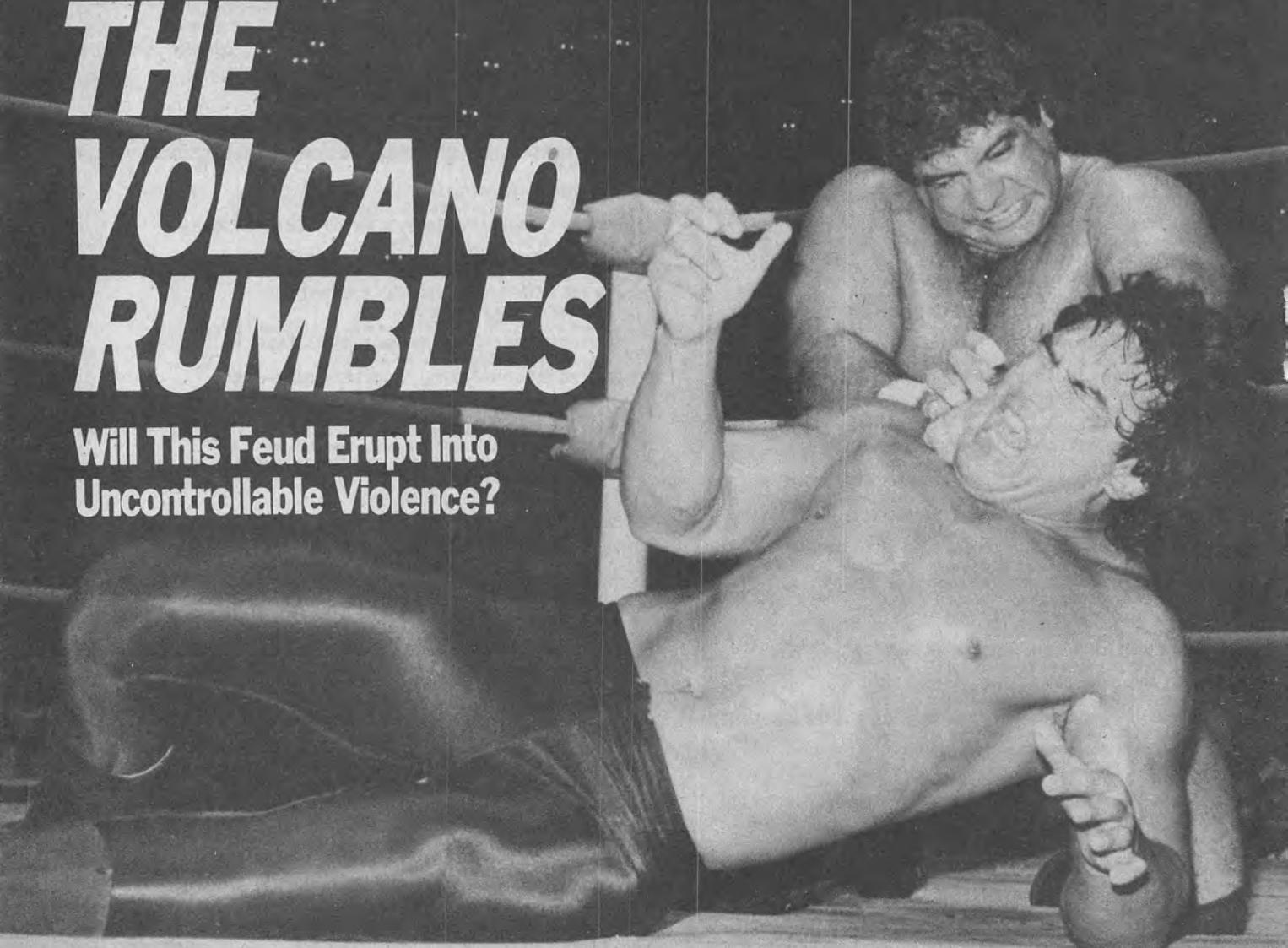
WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

(August 24, 1985; from Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo; Philadelphia)

Rick Steamboat vs. Magnificent Muraco: **THE VOLCANO RUMBLES**

**Will This Feud Erupt Into
Uncontrollable Violence?**



WWF fans who had been waiting for a feud as violent and terrifying as last year's Slaughter-Sheik and Piper-Snuka battles need wait no longer. Magnificent Muraco and Rick Steamboat hate each other with a passion that may never be extinguished

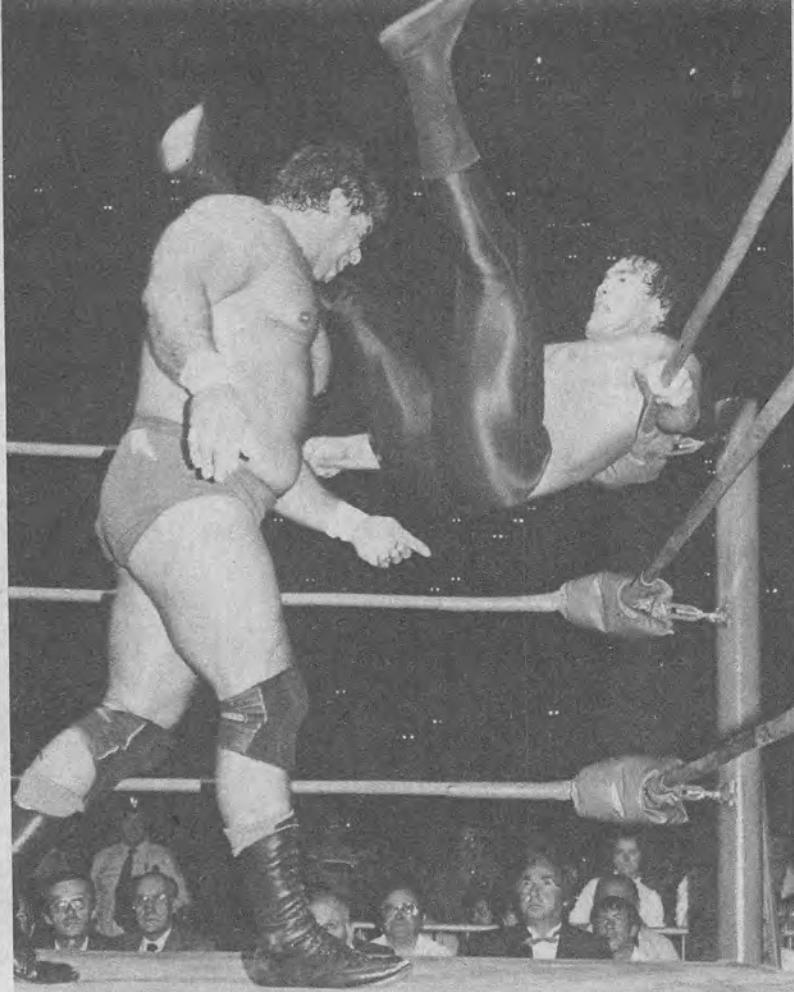
YEARS GENERALLY indicate pain. Pain generally indicates weakness. Rick Steamboat bent over the dressing room sink and squeezed his eyes shut with his fingers, scouring the weakness.

He knew he shouldn't be wrestling. He thought he had completely recovered from the powdering he had taken from Mr. Fuji

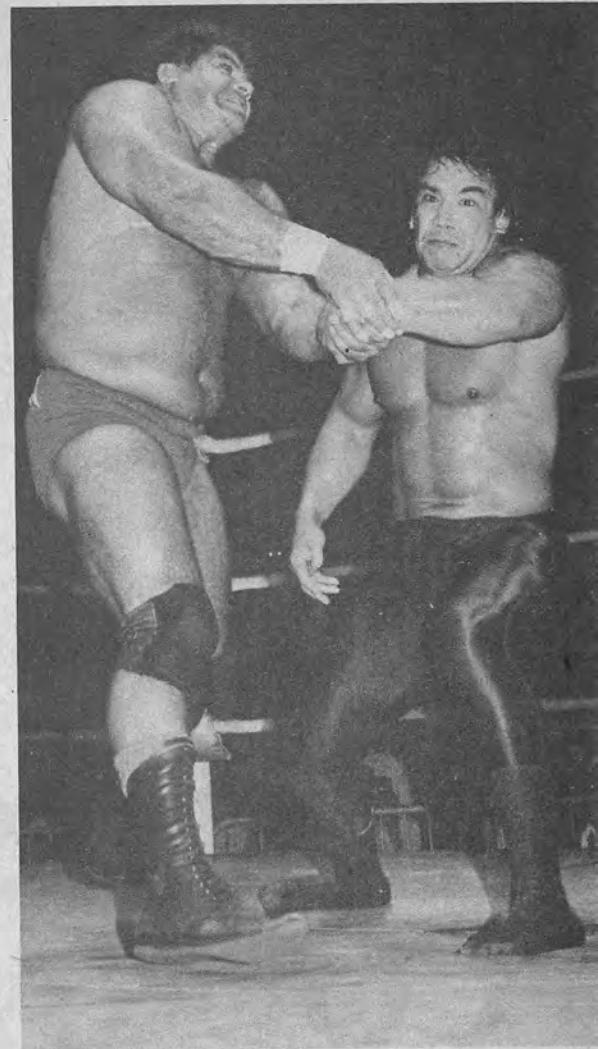
the month before, but his ophthalmologist informed him differently: "Wrestle again this year, and you'll go blind. Your weakened right cornea can't withstand a gouge, much less a fistful of powder. You can't go up against any opponent who concentrates upon damaging the eyes."

Steamboat ground his teeth

and once again closed his eyelids against the burning there beneath. Eyes closed, he summoned other senses. The dressing room—*ecchhh*—it smelled like lye soap. Unsuccessful lye. A separate stench—of the sweats of anticipation and murder—assailed his nostrils. It was almost too much to bear.



Steamboat catches a charging Muraco with a headscissors (above). Muraco picks off a Steamboat karate chop and twists his arm (right). The referee oversteps his bounds in trying to pry Muraco's fingers off of Rick's trapezius muscles (below).



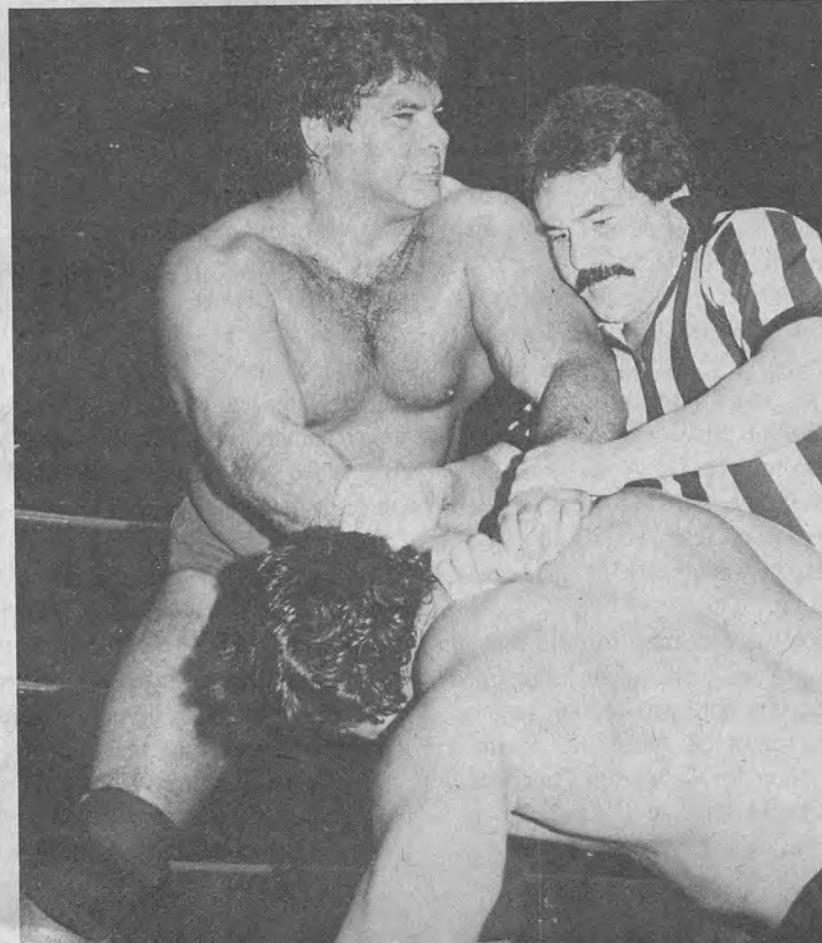
Rick bit his lower lip and looked at the mirror. Oh, that right eye. It was redder than Mauna Loa lava. It seemed to swallow up the earth and focus terror.

He reached for the tiny eyewash receptacle. It was filled with Pacific pond water, spiritually and nutritionally fortified to repair vital sensory organs—a traveling athlete never trusts water within the continental United States. I hate doing this, he thought. But it has to be done.

Steamboat creaked back his neck. He saw weblike beige watermarks cracking the ceiling. He spread open his right eye with thumb and forefinger, and aimed the snifter toward the exposed eyeball. Ricky choked back a cry and felt the Oriental spring water dripping down his face.

Repeatedly blinking, he man-

(Continued on page 54)



Routine surgery to correct a dislocated shoulder was followed by complications that were anything but routine. At one point Mike Von Erich's doctors thought he would die. Now Von Erich is on the road to a full recovery. This is his incredible story

MIKE VON ERICH'S COURAGEOUS FIGHT FOR LIFE

Photos by Buddy Myers

EVERYONE, AT ONE point or another in their lives, faces what might be called a "brush with death" in which one's mortality is vividly brought into perspective. This brush with death might come in the form of an automobile accident from which one walks away only slightly injured, or perhaps it might be an incident in which a gun-wielding burglar breaks into one's home and the person is faced with looking down the barrel of a gun.

Recently, Mike Von Erich faced a brush with death that brought him as close to dying as anyone still alive has ever experienced.

Mike's story begins on August 3, 1985, in the midst of the World Class

area's first tour of Israel. Mike was wrestling a match against Gino Hernandez in Tel Aviv and, as the result of Hernandez's vicious offensive, suffered a dislocated left shoulder.

It was the third dislocation in four months, and it proved to be the worst of them all. Mike was in severe pain, and doctors in Tel Aviv treated him for immediate symptoms, but he knew that his worst fears would soon be realized: He would have to undergo an operation.

Mike was sidelined for the rest of the Israeli tour, and when he returned to Texas, a date was set for surgery.

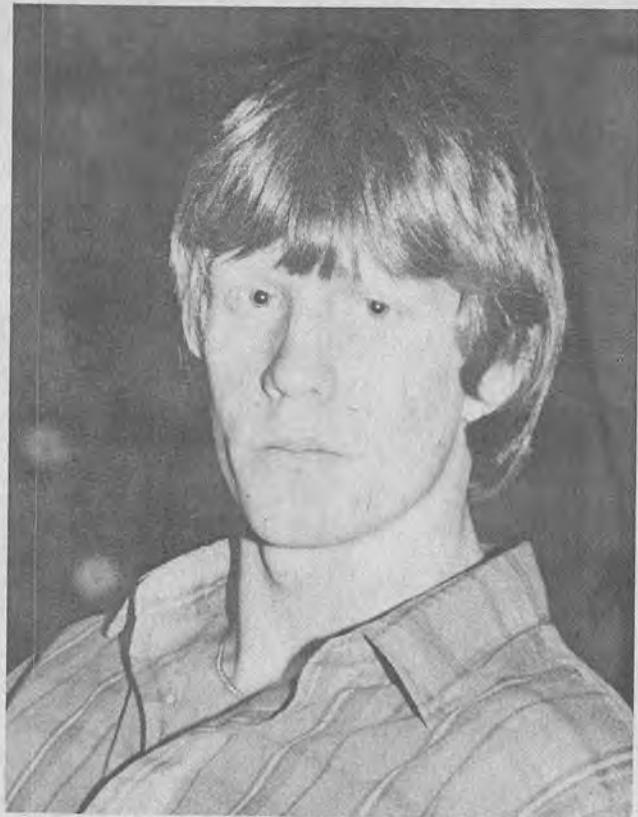
On August 22, Mike was operated on at Granville C. Morton Cancer and Research Hospital in Dallas. The surgery was considered routine and suc-

cessful, and on August 26 Mike was released from Granville with no apparent complications. He returned home to Denton, Texas, to complete his recovery.

But less than 24 hours later, Mike had developed a 105-degree fever. He was readmitted to Granville and, on August 29, was transferred to Baylor University Medical Center, also in Dallas.

Mike's condition upon admission to Baylor was listed as critical. His temperature had risen to 107 degrees and he was placed in intensive care, where it was determined that he was suffering from toxic shock syndrome.

Toxic shock syndrome is a form of blood poisoning caused by a toxin, or poisonous substance, that is produced



Mike Von Erich discusses his future plans after having suffered his second of three shoulder separations.



by a strain of bacteria in the blood. It is the *toxin* in the blood that is the problem, not the bacteria itself.

The story hit the national press quickly, and Baylor was flooded with cards, letters, and telephone calls both asking about Mike's condition and offering support for the seriously ill wrestler.

In one published report, Baylor's Dr. William Sutker described Von Erich's chances of surviving as "poor," and went on to say that Mike nearly died on the evening of August 29.

In a press conference on August 30, Dr. Sutker said that Von Erich's "training and the fact that he's in such good physical shape are probably the

(Continued on page 50)



Mike is applauded by brother Kevin as he is presented the 1984 Rookie of the Year plaque by Senior Editor Bill Apter at an awards banquet last December. Though his promising career is in jeopardy, Mike still has his life.

HOTSEAT

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS:

"I'M JUST LIKE MY DDT— CRUEL BUT FAIR!"

THE PAST FEW months have been turbulent ones for Jake "The Snake" Roberts.

Along with his tag team partner The Barbarian, Jake led a major assault on the Mid-South tag team belts in July against then-champions Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams. When Jake and Barbarian finally forced DiBiase and Williams to give them a title match, DiBiase fled the ring shortly after the match began. Disgusted with DiBiase's apparent cowardice, Mid-South fans rallied behind The Snake.

Shortly thereafter, Jake was wrestling former North American champion The Nightmare. During the match, Nightmare's manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink, and his stablemate Humongous were at ringside. Jake pinned Nightmare and unmasked him. Infuriated, Humongous and Humperdink ran into the ring and, along with Nightmare, began beating Roberts in a vicious three-on-one attack. Seconds later, The Barbarian charged the ring. To everyone's surprise—particularly Jake's—Barbarian helped in the attack on "The Snake." Before the ring was cleared by over half a dozen fan favorites, Roberts was left lying in the center

of the ring in a pool of blood.

Jake's friendship with Ted DiBiase is history, as is his tag team partnership with The Barbarian. But Roberts is enjoying something he hasn't had in a long time: the cheers of the fans. Associate Editor Craig Peters spoke with Roberts about these recent developments in his career.

“

There's no reason that DiBiase and Williams should have denied a title shot to me and Barbarian. Forget about where me and Barbarian stand now, back then we deserved a title shot.

”

Q: It's been a long time since you've heard the cheers of the fans, Jake. In fact, the last time I even had the chance to talk with you, you were a member of Paul Ellering's Le-

gion of Doom in the Georgia area.

A: That's right, Craig, and a lot of water has gone under since then, a lot of heads have been rendered dizzy by the DDT! And by the way, is that why you haven't come to interview me for so long? Have you been afraid to talk to me, Craig?

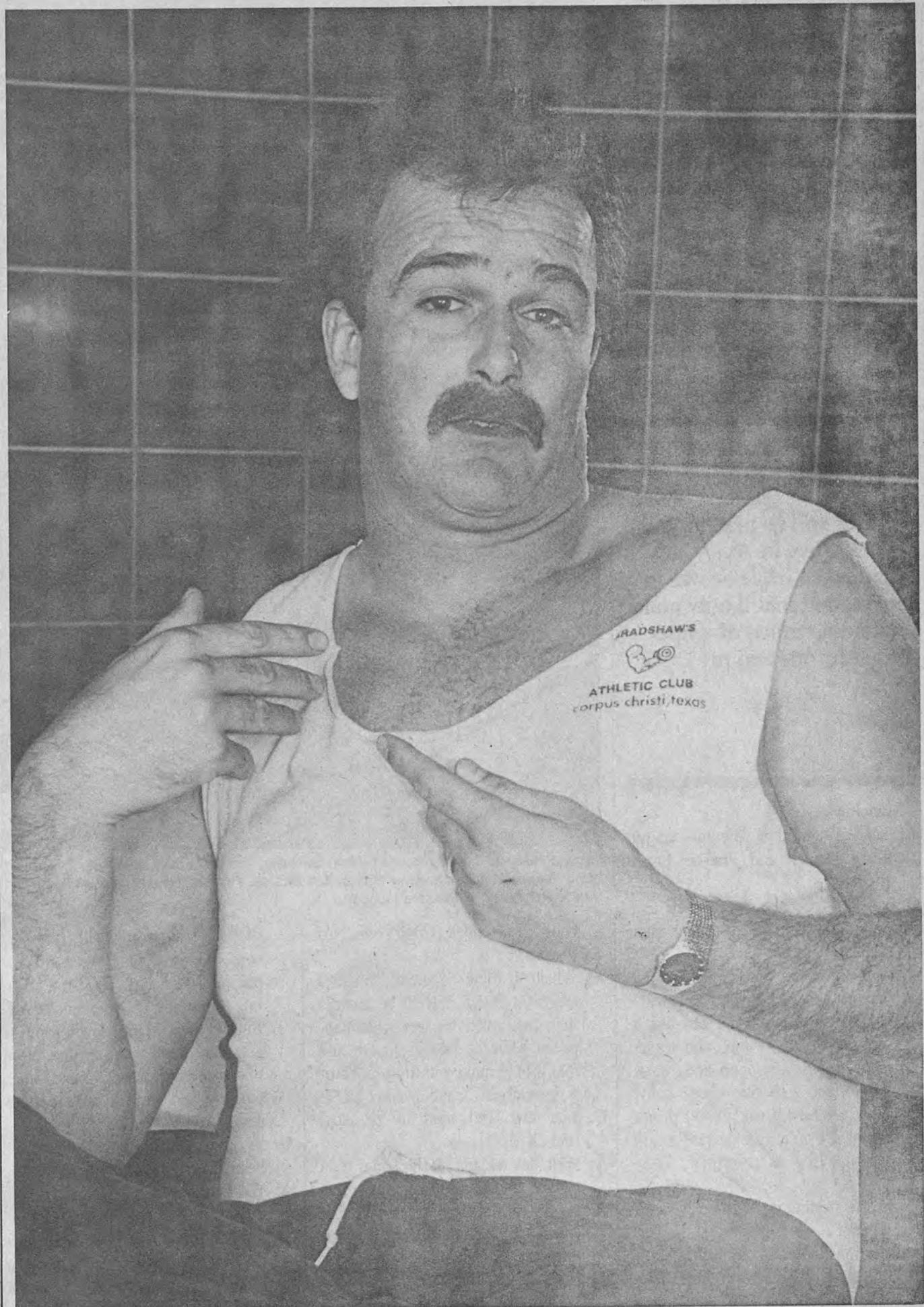
Q: Well, your reputation in Mid-South was kind of . . .

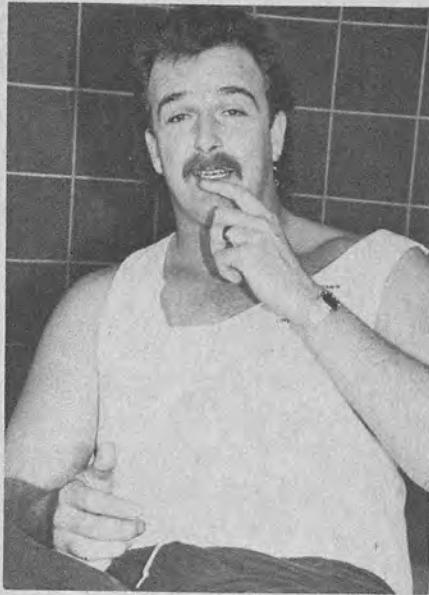
A: Well, it doesn't matter. I'm feeling good these days, and it's good to be back here speaking to the readers of your magazine once again.

Q: Fair enough. There's really been two things going on in your career that I want to talk about. First of all, your split with Ted DiBiase raises a lot of questions.

A: Look, the questions are simple, and the answers are even simpler. There's no reason that DiBiase and Williams should have denied a title shot to me and Barbarian. I mean, forget about where me and Barbarian stand now, back then we deserved a title shot.

Q: And so you and Barbarian came into the ring when DiBiase and Williams were scheduled for a title





“

DiBiase will be madder than hell when he sees what happened while he was in Japan, and that'll only make him that much of a riper target for me and my DDT!

”

defense . . .

Q: Yeah, rough title defense—against Terry Daniels and Frankie Lane. Right.

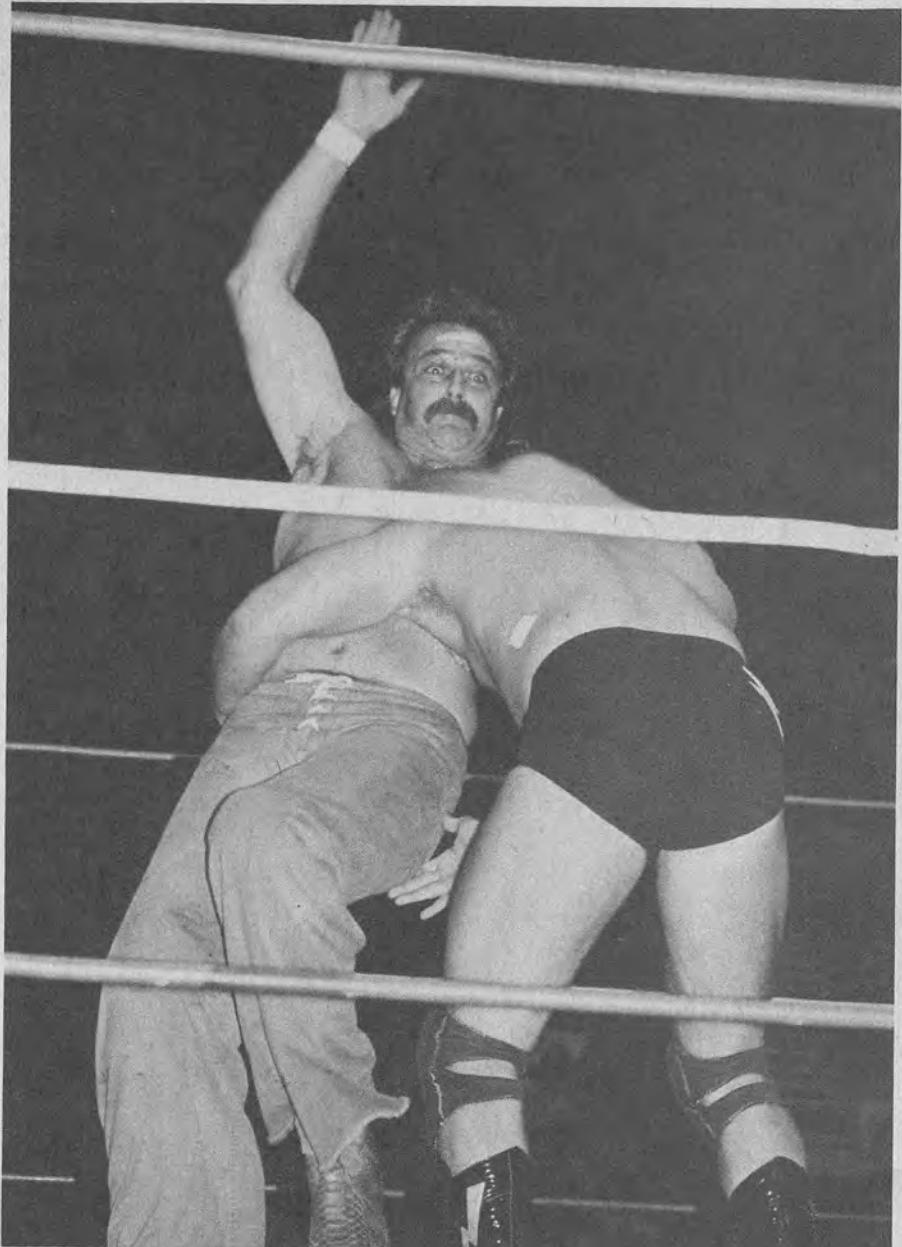
Q: . . . and you attacked Daniels and Lane and demanded a title shot then and there.

A: And remember this, Craig, we *got* our title shot. And what happened? DiBiase turned tail and ran like a snot-nosed little wimp who leaves school in the afternoon and comes face-to-face with the school bully. What a yellow streak! And I'm not a bully, I'm a nice guy! I'm no demon, I'm as sweet as Betty Grable!

Q: In the meantime, DiBiase went to Japan . . .

A: More evidence of cowardice.

Q: . . . and Williams and Bob Sweetan lost the Mid-South tag



Roberts executes his patented finishing maneuver, the DDT. Jake is looking forward to using the devastating maneuver against Ted DiBiase. For the first time in a while, he can also look forward to the fans' support.

belts to Wendell Cooley and Al Perez.

A: Which I think is great! What a laugh on DiBiase! He'll be madder than hell when he sees what happened while he was in Japan, and that'll only make him that much of a riper target for me and my DDT!

Q: You and Ted used to be close friends.

A: Well, let me put it this way. You can be friends with someone for a long, long time and never have that friendship really tested. But when that test comes along, and your friend fails that test—well, you really begin to learn the true nature

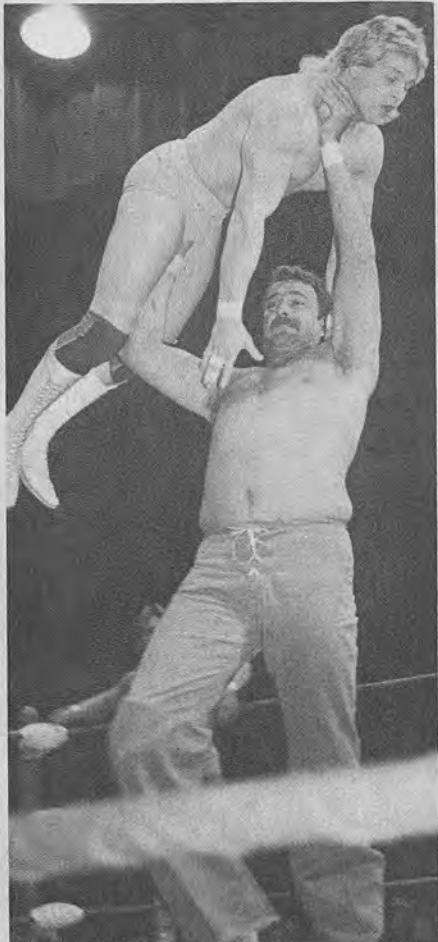
of your relationship with that person. DiBiase and I were friends, yes, and we had a lot of fun bashing a few heads here and there. But when it came down to it, I guess he didn't want to give me a title shot because he knew I could pin him and win the belts for our team.

Q: So now you're going to bash *his* head in.

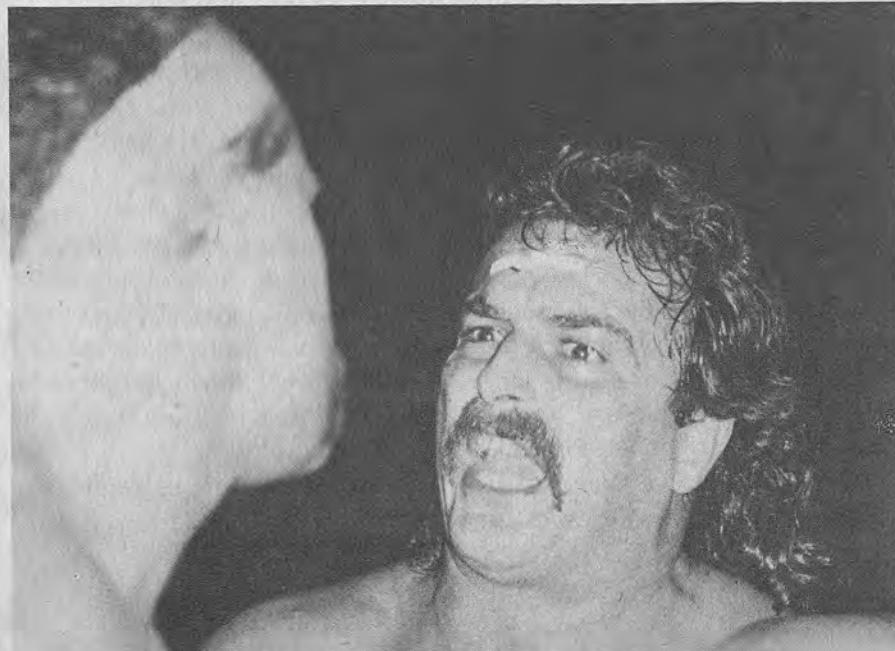
A: Well, why not? He deserves it, doesn't he? And after all, the fans seem to think so, too. It seems like the best idea right now, to knock a little sense into the bum. But I'll stop short of crippling him forever.

I don't want to put him out of wrestling forever, I just want to teach him a painful lesson, one that makes him suffer for a long, long time.

Q: That's very considerate of you.



The Snake grabs popular Bobby Fulton by the throat and lifts him high over his head (above). Jake is very happy to be using his considerable skills against Mid-South rulebreakers, now that he and his former tag team partner, The Barbarian, are at odds (below).



A: And why not? I'm just like my DDT—cruel but fair.

Q: I'd also like to ask you about the incident where The Barbarian ran into the ring and helped Nightmare, Oliver Humperdink, and Humongous in beating you bloody. What was going through your mind at that time?

A: A lot of pain, to be honest!

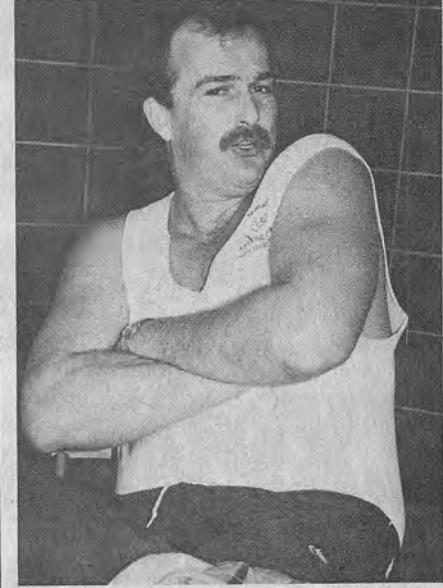
Q: But why do you think Barbarian turned on you like that?

A: I don't know. Who can read the mind of a savage? Jealousy, maybe. Being my partner, he saw up close and personal how the fans began cheering me in our matches. Maybe he was jealous of the cheers. Maybe Humperdink paid him a bundle to do it. I don't know, and frankly I really don't care. See, I made Barbarian the man he is today. I taught him 90 percent of what he knows in that ring. And now the student is trying to overtake the teacher, only the student hasn't even finished his first homework assignment, you catch my drift?

Q: I think so.

A: See, Barbarian is going to learn a lesson, just like DiBiase is going to learn a lesson.

Q: And you're going to teach it to



“

I made The Barbarian the man he is today. And now the student is trying to overcome the teacher, only the student hasn't finished his first homework assignment.

”

him?

A: Who better?

Q: A final question, Jake: Why do you think the fans are cheering you now when they didn't before? Your style hasn't changed all that much.

A: Honestly?

Q: Of course.

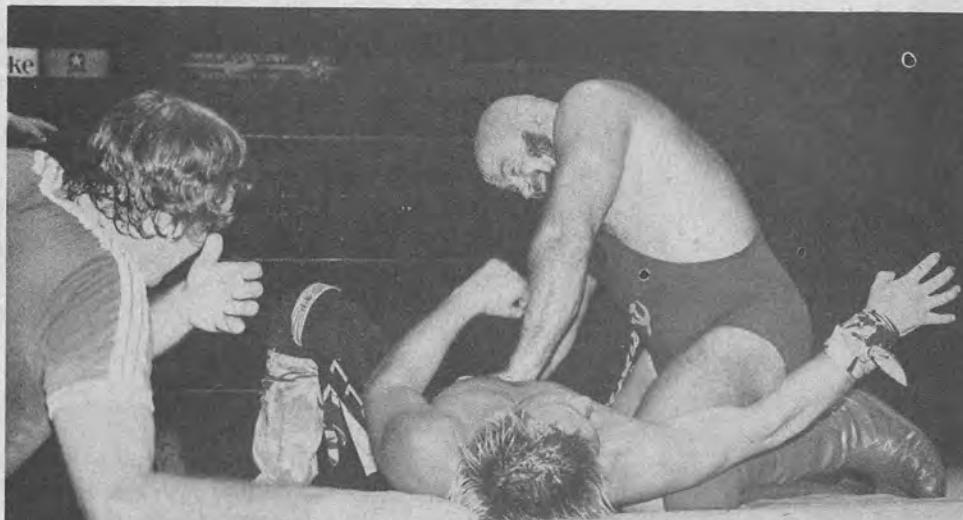
A: Well, my feud with DiBiase has a lot to do with it. But look—the cream always rises to the top. I'm wrestling better than I ever have, and I think the fans recognize this and appreciate it. All I'm doing in that ring every night is the best I can possibly do, obliterating opponents with the classiest move in wrestling, the awesome power of the DDT.

Q: Cruel but fair.

A: Exactly. Just like me.

Koloff & Khrushchev Batter Morton & Gibson: IS THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS SPEEDING TO DISASTER?

Photos by Floyd See



The Rock 'n' Rolls' lack of bulk is taking its toll on the champions' bodies. How long they can hold on against such powerhouses as Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev is a much-asked question these days. Khrushchev applies a camel clutch on Robert Gibson (above left) and Koloff grabs Rick Morton's stomach muscles (above right).

RICK MORTON AND Robert Gibson—NWA *champions* Morton and Gibson to be exact—stretched painfully out on the hard wood of the training tables, their distress etched remarkably on their faces. The championship belts, emblematic of their rare and elusive success, hung impotently from rusty nails on the bare dressing room walls.

In what has become standard operating procedure for the popular duo

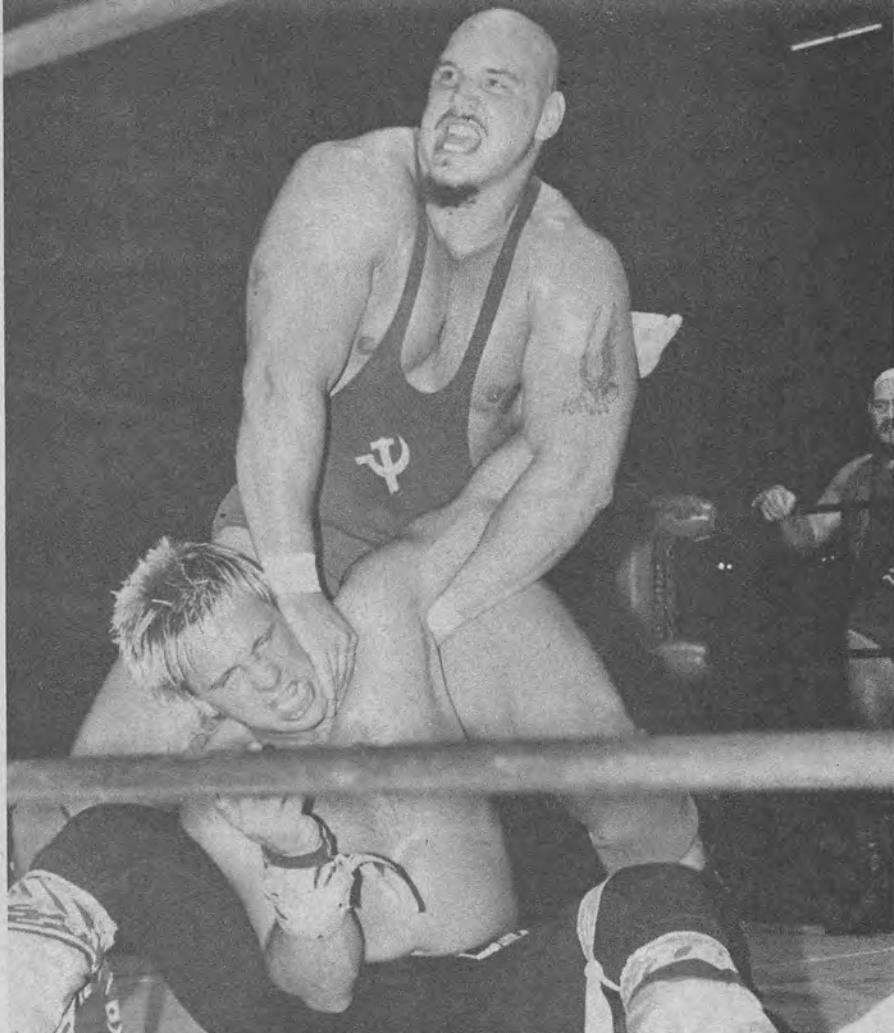
following their matches, Morton screamed—or tried to scream. The sound emitting from Morton's throat came closer to resembling the cry of a wounded goat.

"Jackie! Jackie! Get the hell in here. Jackie," called Morton, imploring renowned wrestling masseuse Jackie "Hands" Madigan to address his wounds. Madigan lumbered into the room, took one look at Morton and Gibson and piped, "Jeez! How many

times you guys wrestle tonight? Four? Five times? Gibson, I swear to God you're changing colors. I know purple is in this fall, but I don't think they meant skin color. And, Morton, I told you if you don't give that ankle a rest you're not only gonna be out of one wrestling career, you're also gonna be the youngest cat hobbling around with chronic arthritis."

Insult and injury never blended so completely. Madigan's scathing ad-

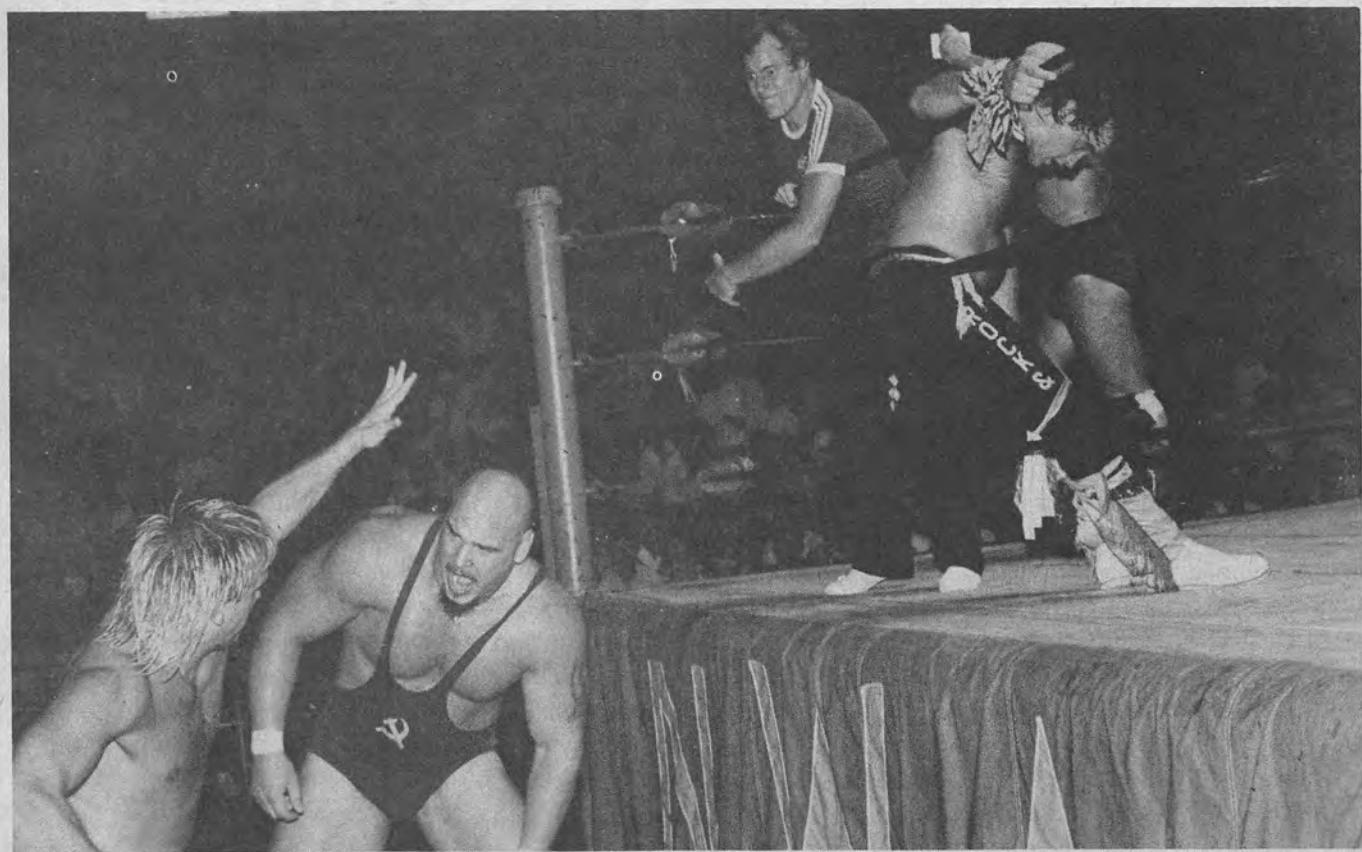
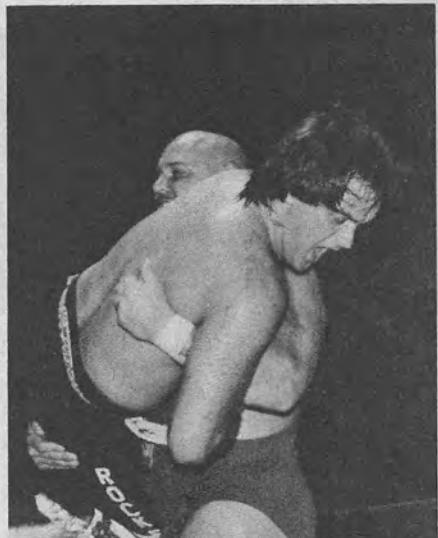
NWA champions Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson are reeling from the effects of defending their crowns against men outweighing them by a hundred pounds. How much longer can their bodies take the pounding?

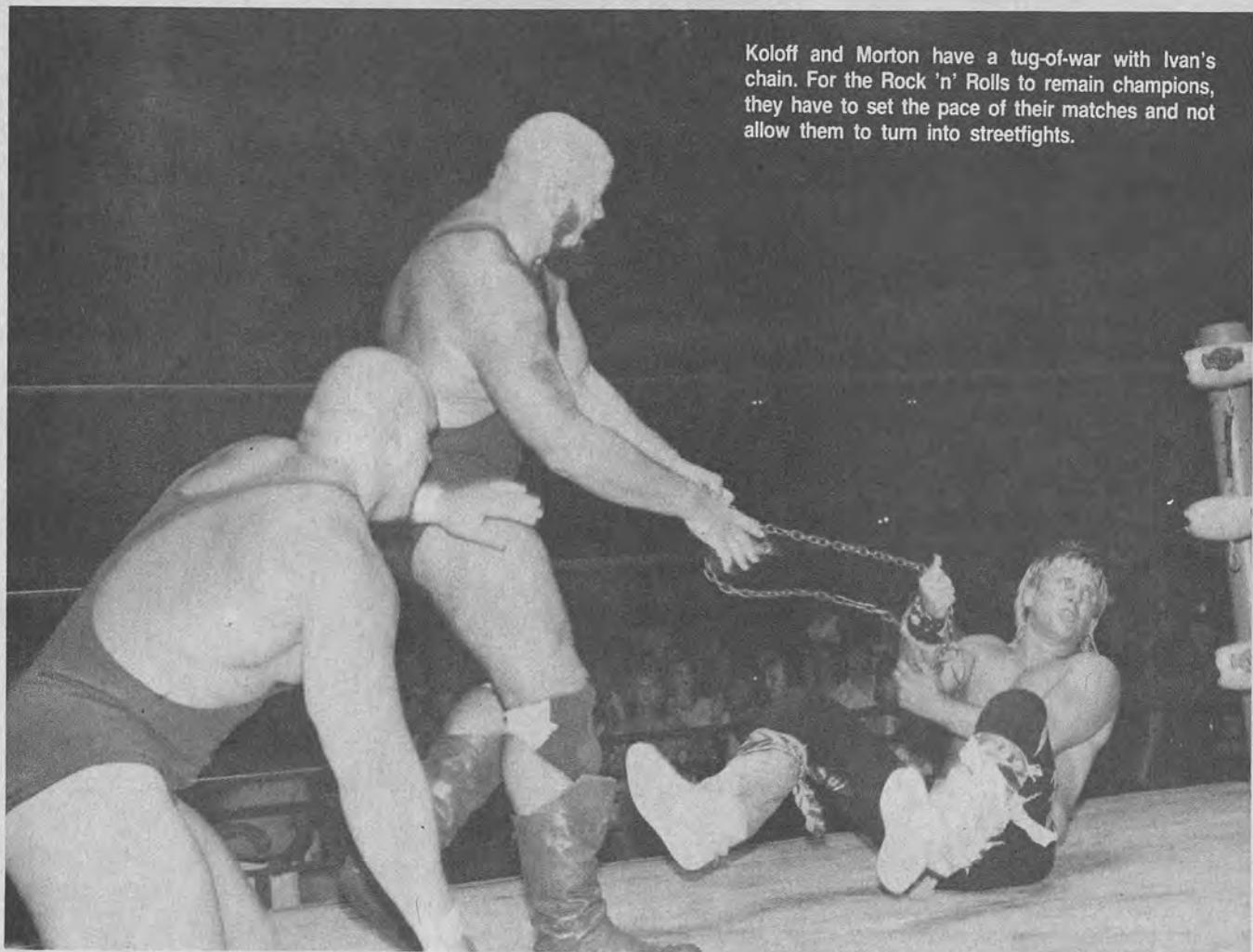


Khrushchev holds Morton to the mat, where his agility and speed can't help him (above). Krusher easily scoops Gibson off the mat and will slam him across his knee (right). Tommy Young makes a futile attempt to control the action (below).

monishments only exacerbated a problem that has haunted The Rock 'n' Roll Express since Morton and Gibson formed their team three years ago. How can a pair of 230 pounds survive in a world dominated by men 50, 70, and even a 100 pounds heavier? So far Morton and Gibson have not only survived, but have thrived as a pair of outsized mavericks, Lilliputian giants in a land of Gullivers.

Many fans recall the Rock 'n' Rolls' dauntless raids on the crowns of the AWA champion Road Warriors, attempts that nearly saw the Express de-





Koloff and Morton have a tug-of-war with Ivan's chain. For the Rock 'n' Rolls to remain champions, they have to set the pace of their matches and not allow them to turn into streetfights.

rail the foreboding Warriors. And their defeat of Hercules Hernandez and Ted DiBiase last year to capture the Mid-South tag team belts supported the theory that these two matinee idols were more than merely cropped hair and dimples.

And of course the final addition to their wrestling resume occurred on July 9, when Morton and Gibson overcame a 60-pound and 20-year differential in weight and experience to defeat Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev for the NWA tag team title.

During the 12-hour victory celebration in Shelby that night, Morton and Gibson denounced the critics who had condemned them to wrestling's fringe because of their size. It was after guzzling a half a bottle of Dom Perignon that Gibson uttered the famous line, "Hey! The Fonz is only 5'7". Leave us alone."

That was over four months ago, and since then much of the sparkle has evaporated in the Express camp.

Morton and Gibson have retained Madigan and his magic hands on a full-time basis. Instead of champagne and caviar, postmatch victory parties consist mainly of aspirin and Ben-Gay.

"These two are banged all to hell," Madigan says. "I don't even know what's holding them together."

In another dressing room, in another arena, the usually humorless Nikita Koloff cracked a huge smile and welcomed the question.

"Ah, yes, yes. Of course Ivan and I will win back belts, but first it more important to hurt Morton and Gibson. Right now emphasis on pain first, winning second. We make match last longer. We work on Morton ankle, Gibson shoulder. They be so broken down soon they retire. Then Ivan and I win belts."

Madigan reluctantly agreed with Koloff. "If Morton and Gibson were racehorses, they'd be forbidden to run. These guys are in pain 24 hours a day. Their style, their success, de-

pends on their flexibility and speed. They don't have the guns to go head to head against a man like Nikita Koloff. They're three parts finesse, one part acrobatics. When you take their legs from them, they're in a heap of trouble."

It's important to note that Madigan spoke these words as his well-paid fingers kneaded the cramping muscle in Gibson's lower back. Gibson and Morton were silent during Madigan's monologue. "It's all physics," Madigan continued. "You can't push a body beyond its natural limits for too long a time. These guys are getting eroded away by the big boys."

After Madigan retired from the room and after a 45-minute whirlpool, Morton answered the many questions that hovered heavy as steam in the small dressing room. "Both Bobby and I are in our 20s and I don't anticipate a sudden growth spurt for either of us. So what's left? Drop our

(Continued on page 58)

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

AS WRESTLING FANS across the country are beginning to consider their choices for 1985's Manager of the Year in the Achievement '85 voting sponsored by our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, it is quite obvious that two of the top contenders for that award are Paul Ellering and Jim Cornette.

Paul Ellering is the manager of *The Road Warriors* (themselves voted Tag Team of the Year in 1983 and 1984) and was voted Manager of the Year in 1984. His strategic expertise is acknowledged worldwide, and he expanded the horizons of his Legion of Doom by bringing Hawk and Animal on several tours of Japan in 1985.

Like Ellering, Jim Cornette concentrates all his time managing one tag team: *The Midnight Express*. Late in 1984, Cornette led the Express into battle in the World Class area, and for most of the first five months of 1985, Cornette and his men held the World Class tag team title. In the past, Cornette has led his team to the Mid-South and Mid-Southern tag team belts, but now his aspirations are greater: the NWA World tag team title, currently held by *The Rock 'n' Roll Express*.

With both men in the running in the 1985 Manager of the Year voting, *Inside Wrestling* felt it would be appropriate to bring these two managers together to discuss their respective careers . . . "One on One."

ONE ON ONE



"Do you believe that so many people would be so blind as to the formidable achievements of The Legion of Doom during 1985?"

—Paul Ellering

JIM CORNETTE:

Far be it from me, Mr. Precious Paul Ellering, to take this forum for discussion and lower it to the level of a mutual admiration society or a character assassination episode. I believe we are both mature enough to conduct this discussion on an intelligent level without being carried away.

PAUL ELLERING:

I agree wholeheartedly, Mr. Cornette. I believe that our topic for discussion is the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Manager of the Year voting, and I hasten to elucidate that my present incumbency, and the excellence of my AWA World championship tag team, provides quite an obstacle to the

success of anyone seeking to prevent my acceptance of such an accolade for a second straight year.

JC: Perhaps, Paul, perhaps, and *The Road Warriors* are a great team, but do you think that the principle of coattails applies here? Look, I fully intend to win the award as Manager of the Year, and I . . .

PE: What do you mean you "fully intend"?

JC: I simply mean that, er . . . well, a Cornette's a Cornette, and after all, I did come in second runner-up last year.

PE: Only about 5,000 votes behind my esteemed self.

JC: Now wait a second, pal, my

IN ONE



"You ran The Road Warriors ragged during the year. Yeah, that's a good reason for the fans to vote for you."

—Jim Cornette

mother enlisted a major accounting firm to run a statistical analysis of last year's voting trends, and she came up with some very interesting information that makes me believe that you haven't got a chance of running away with this award.

PE: I know as well as any mathematician that statistics can be applied to virtually any conceivable happenstance, and that any given set of statistics can simultaneously prove conflicting and wholly opposing conclusions concurrently. But I am interested in what you have to say, so please elaborate on this statistical analysis.

JC: Without getting too deep into the details, because my mother paid a

lot of money for this information, and the kind of information that is really valuable is something that I'm not about to divulge in front of a national magazine audience. Nevertheless, let me say that the 11,000-plus votes that Jimmy Hart received last year are up for grabs. What has this guy done this year? He's formed the Hart Foundation. Brett Hart and Jim Neidhardt. That's a foundation all right, it's a foundation for failure. My little sister's training bra has a stronger foundation than that, but let's forget about that and point out that the 8,000-plus votes that J.J. Dillon received last year are also up for grabs, since J.J.'s biggest

success this year was in watching his stable collapse. That's a total of nearly 20,000 votes up for grabs, Paul, roughly 40 percent *more* than the number of votes you received *total* in last year's voting.

PE: I remain underwhelmed.

JC: Look, my friend, all I have to do is . . .

PE: Do you for a second believe that so many people would be so blind as to the formidable achievements of The Legion of Doom during 1985 that they would vote for an individual whose most formidable notion of success is to lose one regional title and proclaim a challenge for a world tag team title?

JC: Is that a shot? Because if that's a shot, I'll be more than willing to . . .

PE: Now, now, I believe we wanted to refrain from immaturity. Let's talk plain talk. The Legion of Doom maintained a hold on a world tag team title for the entire year . . .

JC: That's an achievement for Hawk and Animal as a team, not for you as a manager.

PE: That's a wholly debatable subject. My Warriors also challenged for the NWA World tag team title, and we obliterated all opposition in Japan in addition to traveling to virtually every area of the country in the last 10 months on a tour unlike any other . . .

JC: So what you're telling me is that you ran the Warriors ragged during the year. Yeah, that's a good reason for fans to vote for you.

PE: Frankly, I don't care what the fans think of me. I am simply asserting that the fans will recognize my excellence demonstrated in 1985; if they fail to recognize this, the reality of my success will not change.

JC: Frankly, I think the fans *do* mean something to you. And frankly, I think you're in for a big surprise in a few months.

PE: That, Mr. Cornette, remains to be seen. □

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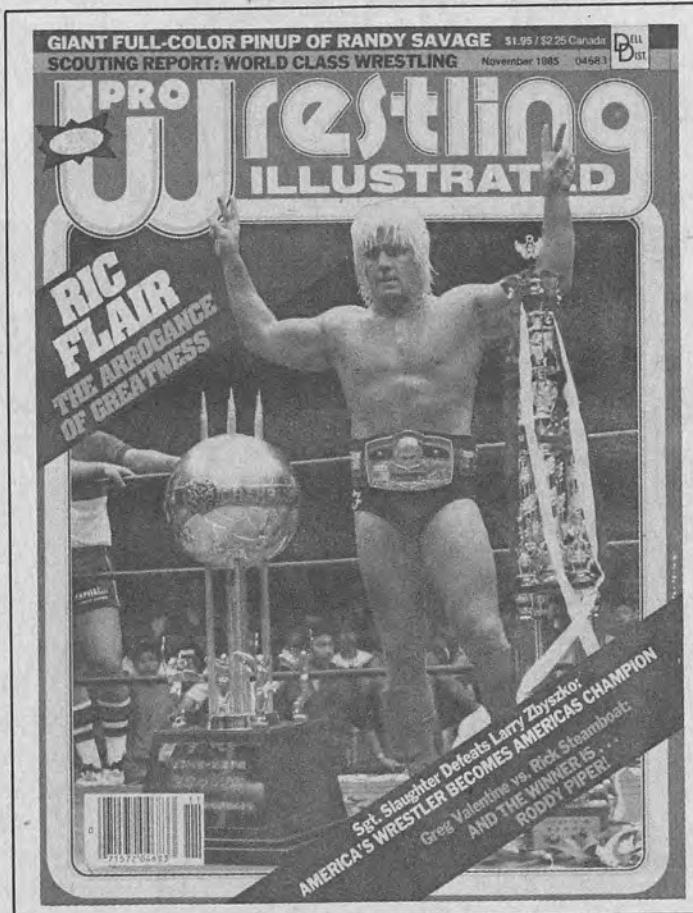
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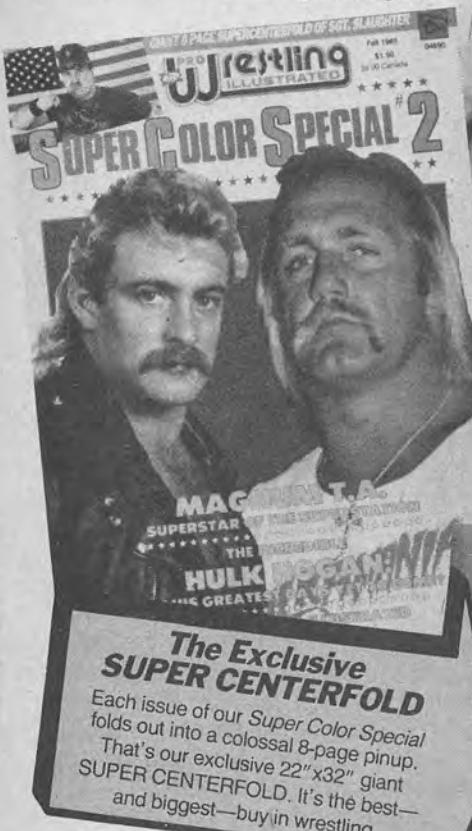
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MIKE VON ERICH

(Continued from page 37)

only reasons he's still alive."

At that same press conference, Mike's brother Kevin said that "a miracle took place last night. Just the fact that we have Mike with us today is really a miracle. We're all praying for him."

Mike would remain in intensive care for two weeks. He had been unconscious for much of that time, had suf-

TOXIC SHOCK: HOW SERIOUS?

Toxic shock syndrome is a form of blood poisoning caused by a toxin that is produced by a strain of bacteria in the blood. It is characterized by sudden high fever and severe vomiting that quickly progresses to shock.

The Center For Disease Control in Atlanta reports 2,815 confirmed cases of toxic shock syndrome in the United States since 1979. Men account for roughly five percent of those cases.

According to Dr. Berkley of CDC, however, the 2,815 figure may account for only 10 percent of the actual number of cases of toxic shock syndrome in the United States. Doctors who diagnose a case of toxic shock syndrome are not legally required to report it to CDC, as they must do with such diseases as smallpox, cholera, or AIDS. The 2,815 figure includes only cases reported to CDC on doctors' own volition, and in turn confirmed by CDC.

Dr. Berkley said that the fatality rate among toxic shock syndrome sufferers is 4½ percent, and is in fact dropping. He also points out that while toxic shock syndrome is commonly associated with women who use tampons, 25 to 30 percent of the cases studied by CDC are non-menstrual related, and the disease has been noted in males and females of all age groups.

fered from an inflamed pancreas, and was experiencing lung dysfunction. He was placed on a respirator to help him breathe. His kidney function was severely impaired, and he was placed on hemodialysis.

Doctors kept a close watch over Von Erich. Gradually, his condition began to improve.

On September 3, Mike's condition was upgraded from critical to serious.

On September 11, Mike was discharged from intensive care and admitted into a private room. His condition was also upgraded: from serious to fair.

Over the next few days, the news that the Von Erich family received from Baylor University Medical Center would prove to be good.

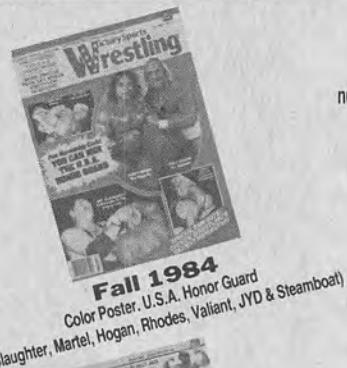
Baylor spokesman Steve Habgood reported that as of our press time (September 17), Mike Von Erich's condition remained fair, though he was still on hemodialysis to support his kidney function. Doctors were hoping to wean him away from the hemodialysis as soon as possible.

(Continued on page 52)



Von Erich is extremely popular with fans of all ages. The hospital mailroom was flooded with get-well wishes.

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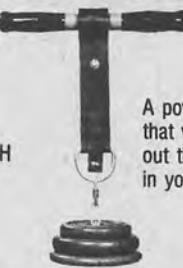
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MIKE VON ERICH

(Continued from page 51)



As the issue went to press, Mike remained in fair condition in a private room at the Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

In addition, Habgood noted that Mike was conscious, he was no longer on a respirator, his pancreas inflammation was subsiding, his lung function was back to normal, and his blood counts were normal.

As Kevin pointed out during the press conference, when Mike's life seemed to be over, "a miracle took place." Indeed it did. Whether or not

he would be able to resume his career was unknown. But wrestling, won-loss records, and a revenge-feud with Gino Hernandez, though, were the farthest things from Mike Von Erich's mind. He is happy to be alive, as are his family, fans, and the rest of the wrestling world.

Hopefully, Mike Von Erich has won the toughest match of his life. □

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(Continued from page 35)



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aged to make out his face in the mirror. His binocular vision had been improved. Hell, he felt like Ted Williams looking at a pitch on the black. Beautiful. He could now retain decent peripheral vision. And this was essential for a match with Muraco and Fuji—a match that was bound to result in double-teaming.

Confident now, bearing fullest command of his vision, Steamboat strolled down the dressing room corridor. A variety of fan favorites—some headliners, some preliminary wrestlers—shouted encouraging words in The Dragon's general direction. "We're with ya, boss!" "Rip that mutha's eyeballs out!" "Show up Don Muraco, man, he's scum!" "Choke up on his gutless throat, Ricky; pretend you're Pete Rose chokin'

up on a bat and knock him into the mezzanine!"

Steamboat smiled indulgently at all the encouragement, but his mind was on other things. He blinked, and blinked again, repetitiously testing the power of his vision.

No, his eyes didn't hurt, and he knew that they worked, but they were tender. His mind's eye could visualize what was going on in the inner recesses of his cornea. The scar tissue seemed to rest there, animatedly, stitching itself up in places that only nature would repair—after all, the doctors couldn't perform surgery with a 50-50 chance of permanent blindness.

The chances of blindness if he returned to wrestling? "Don't even think about it!" was what he heard from the docs. Yet Steamboat felt absolutely no fear as he strode purposefully through the door and down the arena aisle. It was as natural as breathing, stalking to the ring to face two men who wanted to maim or kill him.

A well-known anthropology professor, highly respected for his work at a major eastern university, took advantage of his sabbatical and bought a second-row seat for the war. "You've got to understand," he explained, "the brutal prehistory of the Hawaiian Islands. Most people think of the Islands as a black sand vacationland paradise full of friendly faces. Or else they think of Jack Lord and that Selleck guy fighting gangsters in leisure suits. But the Islands have a brutal history.

"Archaeological evidence and folklore indicate that the Islands were once populated with tribes of headhunters. These barbarians were nomads who engaged in incredibly violent land warfare. They



Muraco slaps Steamboat on the side of the face. Steamboat tried to protect his eyes early in the match, but later he was too tired to keep his hands up.

used to take their enemies' decapitated heads and post them on giant stalks of sugar cane as a warning to other tribes. They also indulged in cannibalism as a ritual feast to honor the Kona gods. Fortunately, these tribes eliminated each other long before the establishment of central government, and centuries before the arrival of Captain Cook.

The professor chuckled. "You know, some of my colleagues used to say that the Samoan peoples were noted for savagery, and others point out the fertile valley of the Tigris-Euphrates—the Arab lands—as breeding violent wrestlers. But an agitated Hawaiian wrestler can also revert to the barbarism of his ancestors. And that is why"—the professor rubbed his hands—"I'm here tonight. Two Hawaiians who hate each other! Imagine!" It's clear that the professor's own bloodlust was aroused by the prospect.

He was not disappointed. This Muraco-Steamboat match would have made the barbarians who once gnawed human bones on the beaches of Waikiki proud. Steamboat wrestled with insane fury; the scientific master was generous in dishing out pain for the sake of vengeance. Muraco, increasingly relying upon nerve-holds, falling groin butts, and other techniques taught to him by Mr. Fuji, countered with a sadistic onslaught of his own. After the first five minutes, arena personnel had the stretchers handy for calls on a moment's notice.

Muraco and Steamboat survived, and miraculously left the ring under their own power. The professor gleefully crammed his steno pad with lecture notes for his class on "The Cultural Roots Of Contemporary Global Violence," and drove home giddy with excitement. Other fans left horrified, knowing they had witnessed an orgy of Hawaiian hate that may never end. □



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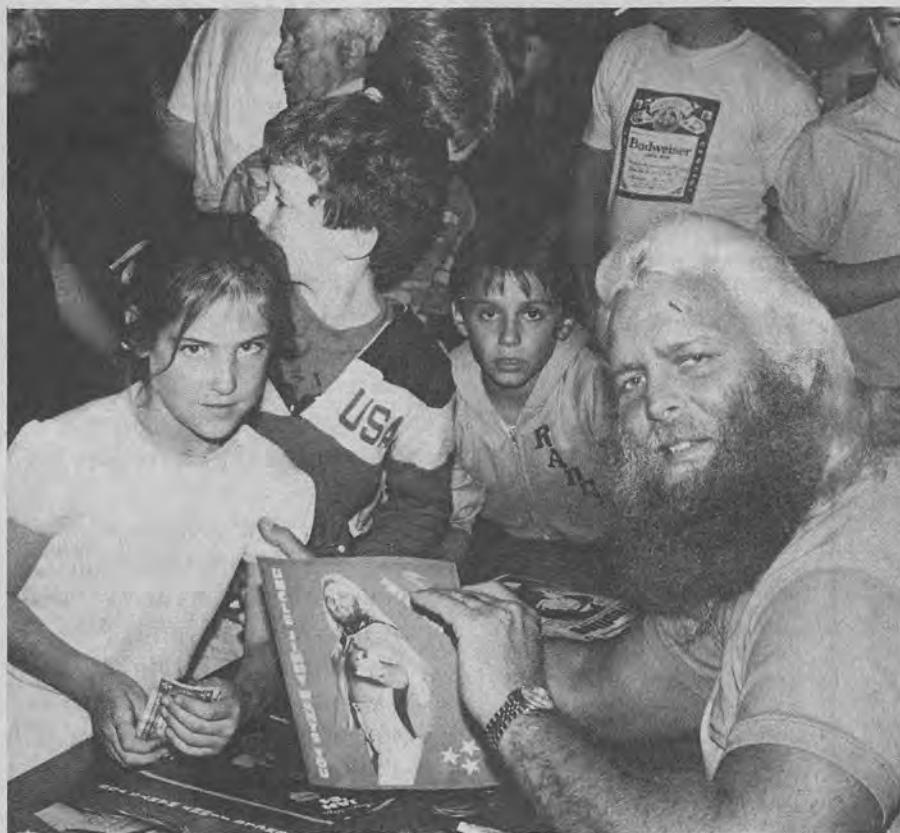
(Continued from page 10)



Ric Flair might risk his NWA title in a unification match with AWA champion Rick Martel. The sport of wrestling stands to be a loser in such a match.

As a fan, recognize the champion of your choice. The fact that there is a baseball team in Japan claiming to be world champions doesn't take anything away from the team that wins the World Series in this country. Likewise, I'm sure the fans of the Canadian Football League champions don't think anything less of their team just because there is an NFL team in the United States claiming the championship of the world (as well as a team from the USFL, for that matter).

I could be wrong, but I don't think there are too many WWF fans who are upset about the fact that the AWA and NWA also recognize world champions. If Hulk Hogan had to defend his title in AWA and NWA recognized areas, then the fans would be upset. Fans who attend matches at Madison Square Garden and other large arenas where WWF title matches had been a monthly event are already upset by Hulk Hogan's limited appearances;



A young fan hands Jimmy Valiant \$2 for an autographed picture. Does Uncle Jimmy want you, or does he want your money? Valiant will not sign your autograph unless it is on his photograph.

imagine if Hogan had to spread himself even thinner. The fans want to see Hogan, Martel, and Flair defend their titles as often as possible.

Until recently I believed that there should only be one heavyweight champion of the world. Perhaps if there were ever a chance of that happening I could be talked out of the argument I now present for multiple champions. Politically—at this point anyway—I see little chance of the WWF ever tossing its champion into an elimination tournament, so there is no chance that there will be a singular champion. As long as we're still going to have two champions, we might as well have three.

I'm very disappointed in one of my long-time favorites: Jimmy Valiant. Valiant, one of the most popular wrestlers in the sport, refuses to sign autographs unless he is signing an 8x10 glossy of himself that he personally sells for \$2.

Valiant, who also sells advertising space on the seat of his wrestling tights to a radio station, seems to have forgotten that those fans who crowd him for his autograph are the same fans who plopped down their hard-earned bucks to get into the arena in the first place. Valiant receives a portion of every dollar those ticket sales bring in. To charge the fans again is reprehensible.

If a wrestler—even a fan favorite—doesn't want to give out autographs, I can understand that. Sometimes the fans come up to the ring and ask for autographs before a match. There are wrestlers who need that time to concentrate on their opponent. Fans also try to get autographs as a wrestler is leaving the arena. Often, the wrestler has to get away quickly to make a flight to his next match and doesn't have the time. Jimmy Valiant makes the time. But he uses it to pick up a little extra spending money. Thumbs down!

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(Continued from page 44)

belts? Only defend them against midgets and women? I think not, and I also think that all this talk about us being hurt and outclassed is a crock of swill. Jackie talks like that because he sees us every night. It burns me up that The Rock 'n' Roll Express has captured the World tag team championship and we still are thought of as flash-in-the-pans by a lot of wrestling people.

"Sure we hurt. Of course we're in pain a lot. That's the nature of this profession. If you can't wrestle with pain, then you can't wrestle."

Nevertheless, as Morton and Gibson shuffled out of the dressing room that night, already scheduled to wrestle the Koloffs three times in the next five days, Jackie Madigan's words echoed ominously throughout the empty dressing room: "You can't push a body beyond its natural limits." □

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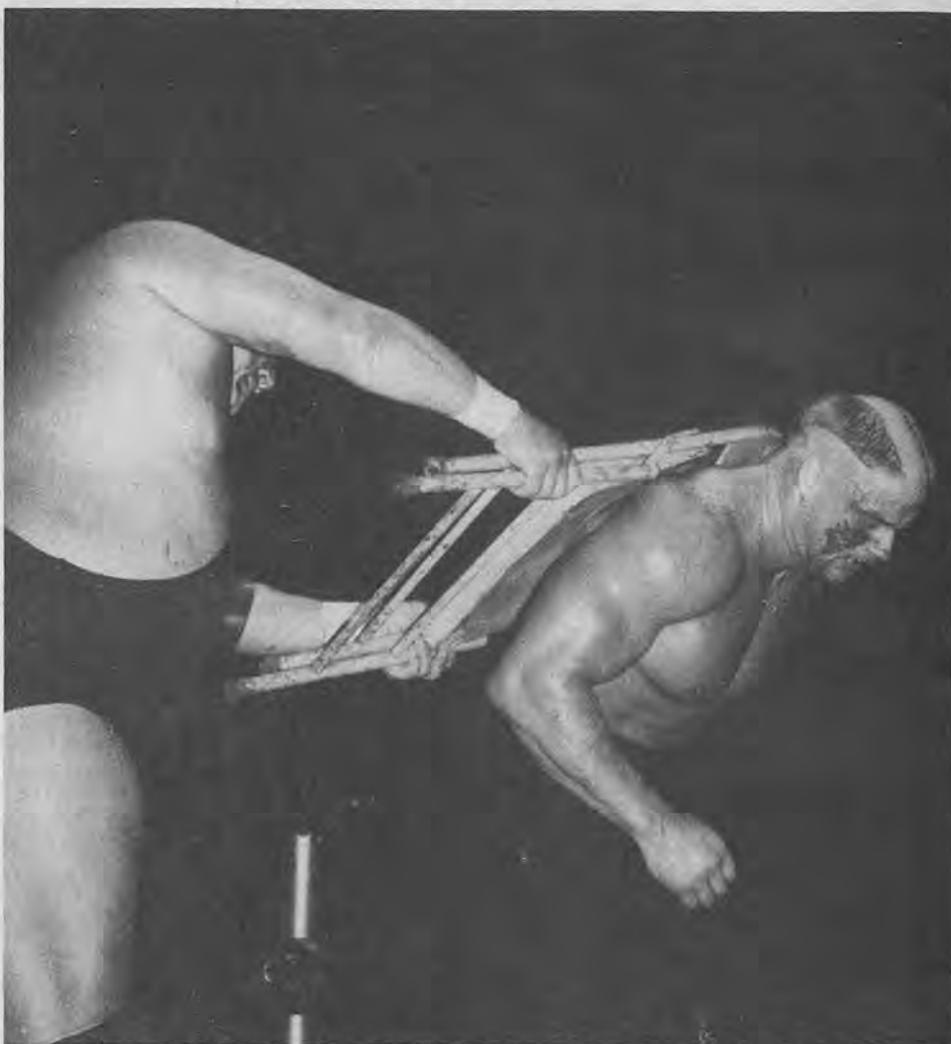
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American
Red Cross

WARRIOR

(Continued from page 31)



When The Road Warriors are the ones taking chairs across the back, as Hawk is against Wahoo, something is wrong. That something might be the grueling schedule they are forced to keep by their manager, Precious Paul Ellering.

The Fantastically Fabulous Effeminate—why do they challenge the world's most awe-inspiring instrument of destruction? To answer your question, sir, we intend to maintain a heavy travel schedule to permanently close their yapping mouths. We have run out of competition in the AWA, as you well know, and we are hungry for fresh victims. We have to silence these fools, even if it means engaging in three matches a night!"

With this, a preliminary wrestler who had been sitting in on the press conference left the room in disgust. In the corridor, he dropped his gym bag with a jarring thud and muttered an obscenity.

"Man, I never thought I'd say this, but I feel sorry for the Warriors," he

said. "Ellering's double-talk and B.S. is ruining them. They're bone-tired, I know it, they can't take a schedule like that. Nobody can!"

The wrestler picked up his gym bag and walked down the long corridor to the exit. As he walked through the door, he could still hear bits and pieces of Ellering's exhortations:

"We have to prove . . . no other team than us . . . we'll be able to do it . . . silence those fools . . ."

One can't help but ask the inevitable questions:

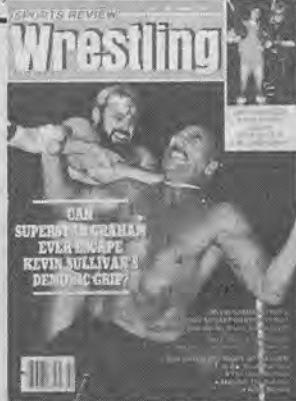
Has Paul Ellering finally gone too far? Does he have the best interests of his tag team at heart? Should Hawk and Animal seek a new manager?

Serious questions that the Warriors should seriously consider. □

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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling



FEBRUARY 1985

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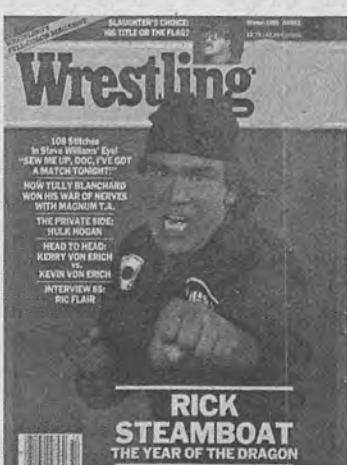
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SINCERELY

(Continued from page 6)

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SANDY LeGRANDE
Marin County, CA

SUPER FAN

Face up to it world, professional wrestling is the greatest sport there is. Football has too much equipment, baseball is too slow, basketball employs only pituitary cases, and hockey



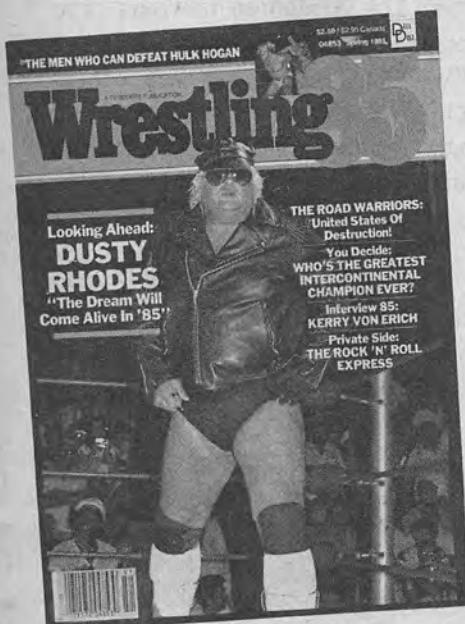
Hulk Hogan is the most popular athlete in what is quickly becoming the most popular sport—pro wrestling. According to Don Howard, no other sport compares.

is just plain stupid. Soccer is lame, volleyball is silly, bowling is easy, and golf is as stupid as hockey. My Saturday mornings are the favorite times of the week for me because I can sit back with a Yoo-Hoo and a box of Cheerios and watch eight hours of wrestling. I couldn't think of a better thing to do on a weekend. What makes wrestling exciting is its suspense and the novelty of its characters. What other sport can boast of athletes like Abdullah the

(Continued on page 64)

GO FIRST CLASS!

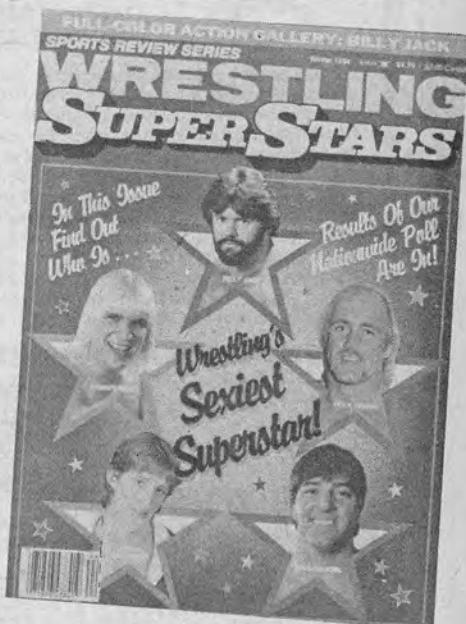
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SINCERELY

(Continued from page 62)

Butcher, Sky Low Low, and Hulk Hogan? None! I'm thrilled that wrestling is finally getting the exposure it rightfully deserves. It can only get better and better.

DON HOWARD
Sheepshead Bay, NY

THE WEASEL IS A VARMINT

An open letter to Bobby Heenan:

You scroungy rodent! You slothy earthworm! How dare you attack Capt. Lou Albano on television. You couldn't handle the fact that you aren't WWF Manager of the Year, could you? What potion of delusion would make you suspect that with prelim bums like The Missing Link and Big



Showing how good a sport he could be, Bobby Heenan attacked Lou Albano after The Captain was selected WWF Manager of the Year. Reader Dave Sheffelin certainly did not vote for Heenan.

John Dudd you would even be considered as Manager of the Hour, let alone of the year? You are a crass, obnoxious, egotistical, no-skill loudmouth. And those are your good points. Paul Orndorff will eventually remove most every one of your vital organs anyway making the WWF a little more pollution free. Then you could get a job more commensurate with your natural

abilities—like a stable cleaner or bait washer.

In case you've missed my point, Mr. Heenan, let me reiterate: You, sir, are nothing but a virus.

DAVE SHEFFELIN
Boston

NOTHING BUT BIRD-DOO

Every week I watch *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* and I find myself getting sicker and sicker because of Michael Hayes. He is the most disgusting individual in



Michael Hayes, flanked by his Freebird teammates Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts, is not among Jonathan Greenblatt's favorites. Jonathan is looking forward to seeing Hayes get taken apart by The Road Warriors.

wrestling today. He cannot shut up for more than 10 seconds at a time. When he's not spouting off about the South, he's interfering on behalf of his inept Freebird brothers, Terry (Frankenstein) Gordy and Buddy (Who says I'm stupid?) Roberts. I, along with intelligent wrestling fans everywhere, look forward to the not-so-distant day when The Road Warriors kick his teeth in. You wait and see, you pathetic slob, Michael Hayes, Animal and Hawk are going to pluck your feathers.

JONATHAN GREENBLATT
Trumbull, CT □

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